My Daily Walk

A Comprehensive Commentary on the Life of Jesus for Youth, Families, and New Believers

Keep it simple devotions! It's so true that the most important lessons in life are simple. Those who have learned to cling to these simple but timeless lessons from the Bible have found life to be refreshingly delightful and fulfilling. And this is what these devotions are about—passages from the Bible based on the life of Jesus (from his birth to his ascension), with simple lessons that readers can easily remember and practice throughout the day, and hopefully throughout their lives. Christians, both young and old, must know what they believe and we hope this book will help achieve that.

This devotional is designed to appeal to readers of all ages.

The cartoon characters, Zekk,

and Hechel

bring a fresh and delightful experience to the daily devotions.

My Daily Walk Includes:

- Summary and Explanation of Bible passages
- Dig Out The Answers
- In Your Own Words
- Today's Wise Words
- Memory Verses
- Contemporary Clip Art

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Amerley Treb Books

365 Stay-True-To-Scripture Devotions

My Daily Walk

Discover The Life of Jesus

Flora A. Trebi-Ollennu

This book is presented to:

_____

on this day of:

_____

by:

_____

Here's What Pastors and Sunday School Teachers Are Saying

The devotions were brief and had direct messages that any youth could understand. The questions were not too many and allowed one to express his or her own understanding of the passage read.

Dr. Bayo Adams, Bible Study Leader & Coordinator of International Fellowship, *Woodvale Pentecostal Church,* Ottawa, Ontario.

My Daily Walk is indeed an incredible masterpiece that assists youth to discover the fundamental truths about the life and mission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, throughout the year.

Rev. Jonie Ansah, National Children's Leader, The Church of Pentecost U.S.A., INC., New York

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This is wonderful. I really like the short synopsis of each story. I don't think it's too easy or too hard to read. The questions really do a great job of recapping the story and I like the fact that each day you ask readers to write down what they learned. I think this part will allow older ones to express themselves and the younger ones will only improve their writing and analytical skills through doing this.

Richelle Muth, Pre-K Sunday School Coordinator, *Millwoods Pentecostal Assembly,* Edm, Alberta

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I really enjoyed reading the devotions. They were a blessing to me and a ministry to my son. I like that the devotions were based on Jesus' life and ministry. I also like the way they encouraged a natural and relaxed context to discuss spiritual concepts with my son. I can hardly wait until my son can begin reading the entire devotion book.

Mettie Jane Wiskar, Vacation Bible School Director, *Cambrian Heights Baptist Church,* Calgary, Alberta.

I found the daily devotions to be very educational yet inspiring at the same time. The new stories every night had my child learning every day while receiving an inspirational message that stayed with her throughout the week. The stories were bite sized enough to be comprehended by her young mind yet filled with just enough spiritual content to relate to her day to day walk with the Lord.

Emmanuel & Nicole Pobee, Junior Church Coordinators, *Bramalea Christian Fellowship Open Bible Church*, Brampton, Ontario.

It is concise and targeted to the correct age group. The scripture selections are excellent and cover the basic requirements of our role as salt and light of the world.

Dr. E. Dapaah-Afriyie, Director of Christian Education, *Victory Assembly of God,* Providence, Rhode Island.

MY DAILY WALK addresses the challenges every Christian parent must face. My church has made it a project to ensure that every member of the Sunday School and Junior Youth is able to walk and talk to Jesus daily. I thank God for the material at this point in time for the youth in my church.

Rev. Kofi Danquah, Senior Pastor, Ghanaian Presby, Montreal, Quebec

My Daily Walk

Discover The Life of Jesus

Flora A. Trebi-Ollennu

Amerley Treb Books
Canada

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Here's What Young Readers Are Saying

The devotional teaches me not only how to live in a positive way, but shows me how to help others live in a positive way as well.

Francis, *Age 16*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

My faith in God and in his word continues to grow as I do the devotions. It also gives me confidence that God is in control of my future.

Ahiney, Age 13, Ottawa, Ontario

I think this devotion book helps me to know Jesus more. The Bible study lessons are helpful for me. I especially like the cartoon character Hechel. He asks questions that make me think about how the Bible story applies to my life. Reading the Bible helps me learn how Jesus wants me to live. This book focuses on the way Jesus lived and how He wants me to live to please Him.

Ethan, Age 12, Calgary, Alberta

Little by little I am able to cover the stories of Jesus in the Bible in an easy manner. I have learned a lot about the good things the Lord can give me especially peace and protection. I also like that I can put down key points and my thoughts in my journal.

Philbertha, *Age 12*, Caledon, Ontario

The lessons in the devotional have been very helpful in making better decisions and choices. I also obey my parents better, doing more chores at home.

Damaris, *Age 11, West Lafayete, Indiana*

The devotions help me make good choices. It makes me think before I act. I also know what to expect in the future—the Rapture.

Toluwa, *Age 12*, Ottawa, Ontario

I am able to do what is right at school when I do my devotions in the morning. It also makes me feel confident.

Nancy, *Age 12*, Hamilton, Ontario

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First and foremost, I thank God for the grace to receive his guidance in response to the burden he placed on my heart to equip both Christian youth and new disciples with a tool to help them know who Jesus is and in the process help them develop the discipline of spending time with God daily. Reviewing this edition was a joy.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to both family and friends who have partnered with me over the years so the devotional commentaries are made available to various youth and children's ministries in many countries: my late father Trebi Kuma Ollennu, my mother Grace Fofo Ollennu, Kwaku Agyeman-Duah, Ernest Dapaah-Afriyie, Harvey & Laura Riehl-Tonn, Michael & Lucy Quarshie, Joana Akrofi, Yaw & Comfort Tsinkorang, Vilma Laryea, Dr. Eric Boye, my late friend Benedicta Boateng-Apeadu, Vashti Achus-Got, Ben & Afua Amponsah, Robyn Zingle and Jojo & Barbara Entsuah. The many testimonies that have filtered through to us are a confirmation that God's Word sets people free and establish them in the Truth.

I also want to thank my children: Amerley Fraikua, Trebi, Essilfua, and Papa-Ollennu for their support and understanding during the writing process, and especially Papa-Ollennu who kept asking how the reviewing was going. Finally, I am indebted to my husband, Deheer, who with a spirit of cooperation was always ready to assist in various ways, and all, undergirded with prayer and loving support.

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A Word To Mom, Dad, or Guardian

Please assist eight-year-olds and slow readers in using this devotional. The strategy is to wean children from this assistance when they are ten years old or thereabout. The goal is to develop in children a high interest to investigate the truths in the Bible for themselves, becoming well versed in the teachings of the Bible as they grow up. Familiarity with the words of Jesus is sure to deliver children from extremist and false doctrines.

It is recommended that parents assign particular periods in the day for this project, preferably before children leave for school in the morning. The whole point is to teach children to start the day with the Lord. We encourage you to ask children what they read from the Bible as well as lessons learned. Children should be encouraged to go over portions of the devotions once or twice to reinforce lessons learned (e.g. over every three month period). This way, children will not be overwhelmed with too many lessons.

To help children appreciate and understand that Jesus is the promised Messiah, and to give a sense of flow of his life, the daily readings are arranged in chronological order. Most of the text in this devotional is based on the New International Version Bible. However, children may use Bible versions they are comfortable with. A few memory verses are taken from the King James Version, The Message, New Living Translation, and the New Revised Standard Version for clarity.

Be a shining example yourself—let the children know you also read the Bible and pray daily, and share your devotions with them. We hope children would realize that their parents appreciate and value time spent with the Lord in prayer and in the WORD. Parents who dedicate themselves to this will find it a double blessing as they themselves acquire more discipline with regards to their daily devotions or quiet times.

Use It For Family Bible Study Too

This book is a useful tool for family Bible studies. It is dedicated to the life of Jesus—his birth, his ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension, all of which make for a good family Bible study. Various themes run for a week or more, along with a variety of stories and passages that will fire your imagination as you explore applications to everyday life—excellent for Sunday school and discipleship programs. There are questions to be addressed for each passage; there are memory verses and points for further discussion.

Dear Young Reader, Family or New Christian,

Here's How You Can Use This Book

Keep it with your Bible and use it everyday to find a Bible passage to read. It takes between five and twelve minutes to read the Scripture suggested and the comments in this book. Talk to some Christians and they will tell you they sometimes struggle to do their quiet time every day because they never acquired the habit when they were young or when they first became Christians. Start now and you'll be glad you did.

What you will need:

- a Bible
- a quiet room or personal place
- a desk or table to sit behind comfortably
- a pen or sharp pencil
- a note book to record answers and thoughts for the day or
- you can use any note taking apps

Here's how you can start:

- Thank God for a new day and commit the day into his hands.
- Pray to God to help you understand and enjoy reading the Bible.

When you finish

- Remember the lessons you have learned and thank God for them.
- Ask him to help you put those lessons into practice.

Sinner's Prayer: *If you haven't asked Jesus to save you from your sins, but you have seen your need to be forgiven of your sins and you have seen your need to allow Jesus to be the One who leads you in everything, you can pray the following prayer to accept him. Then the Holy Spirit will come and live in you, and give you a new life if you really mean it. This is how you know that God is in your life.*

"Dear Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God who came to earth and died to pay for my sins so I can become God's child. Forgive me of all my sins and wash me in your blood. I ask you to become my Lord and Savior. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can follow you the rest of my life—reading the Bible, obeying it, praying, meeting with other Christians, sharing this Good News with non Christians, and using the gifts you have given me to serve Christians and the rest of the people in the world, Amen."

Day 1

READ

Luke 1:5-13

John's Birth Is Announced

Today is a very special day, because you are joining a worldwide family of people young and old who are reading the Bible in many hundreds of different languages. It won't be easy to keep it up, so let's pray together right now, that God will help you to read again tomorrow, and the day after, and every day from now onwards. Yes, Lord, please help us all to do that. Amen.

Now read Luke chapter 1, verses 5 to 13

In Bible times, the Temple in Jerusalem was where God's people worshipped. It was their church. All church services took place in the Temple. Zechariah was a priest who worked in God's Temple. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, loved God. They were old. They had no children. But one day, while Zechariah was working in the Temple, he looked up, and he saw a messenger from God, an angel! He was surprised and afraid. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! You and Elizabeth will have a baby! This baby will make you glad! You are to name this baby John." Whatever God gives brings joy and gladness. Be glad for the things you have been blessed with—faith in God, family, home, school, friends, jobs, and many other things too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth loved God very much but did not have _____.
2. Zechariah worshiped God in the Temple by offering prayers in the form of incense. Write down two things you do at church or on your own to worship God.
3. God's angel appeared to Zechariah in the Temple and told him _____.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that you know my needs and will supply them just as you did for Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Today's Wise Words

God knows and meets my needs, so I am not afraid.

Day 2

READ
Luke
1:14-17

John—A Special Baby

Today, we will continue to read about what the angel told Zechariah the priest in the Temple. You remember the angel told him not to be afraid. He also told him that he and Elizabeth were going to have a baby. And they were to name him John. This baby John was going to be special because:

1. He would make his parents very happy.
2. Many people were going to be happy because of him.
3. God would use him for great things.
4. John could not drink alcohol or any strong drink.
5. He would be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Can you remember these five things without looking into your Bible or this book? Try to write them down from memory.

2. Why do you think the angel told Zechariah not to be afraid. What is making you afraid? What is God telling you about your fears today?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: Pray that God will fill you with his Holy Spirit like John.

Today's Wise Words

1. I am special.
2. I can do great things for God when I'm filled with the Holy Spirit.

Day 3

READ
Luke 1:18-22

Zechariah Doubts God's Message

After the angel finished talking to Zechariah in the Temple, Zechariah asked, "How can I be sure this is true?" Zechariah did not believe the angel. The angel told Zechariah he would not be able to speak until baby John was born. And it happened as the angel had said. When Zechariah stepped out of the Temple, he could not speak to the worshippers waiting for him outside, so he made signs to them with his hands. The angel spoke God's word to Zechariah. Today, God speaks to us through the Bible. It is good to believe the Bible and do what it tells you. When you do what the Bible says, it makes you wise so you won't think unwise things, say unwise things, and do unwise things. Zechariah could have expressed his faith in God's great power and faithfulness in answering his prayer for a child finally, even though he and his wife were then passed childbearing age. Say yes to what God has promised to do for you today.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How did God speak to Zechariah?
2. How does God speak to us today?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me to believe all that I read in the Bible because it is your Word. Help me to obey it so I will grow wise. Today, I choose to think wise things, say wise things, and do wise things, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: We believe everything the Bible tells us because God's Holy Spirit is speaking through it.

Day 4

READ
Luke
1:26-38

An Angel Sent To Mary

The angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary with very good news. She would have a baby, and she should call him Jesus. Mary believed the angel. A young person who keeps himself or herself from sexual relations until marriage is a virgin; so was Mary. Because Mary believed what the angel told her, God blessed her with another good news—Elizabeth, her relative, thought to be too old, was also expecting a baby. When you trust what God says in the Bible and obey it, you are opening yourself up for God to give you many more blessings. You just watch as we go along, Mary would enjoy one good news after another. Mary and Joseph did not do what married couples who love each other do to make babies. Rather, the Holy Spirit placed baby Jesus in Mary's womb—a miracle, and nobody can explain it. That's why Jesus never sinned because Mary and Joseph, his parents, did not and could not pass on their sin nature to him as it happens to all babies (you and me). That's why Jesus is the only one who can save us from sin because he was without sin and truly God's Son.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is Jesus called God's Son, and why is he the only one able to save us from sin? 2. What does God do for those who believe what he tells them in the Bible?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Praise God for sending his Son to save us.

Memorize Luke 1:37 (NLT) *"For nothing is impossible with God."*

Today's Wise Words

One blessing follows another when I trust God.

Day 5

READ
Luke 1:39-45

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Shortly after, Mary visited Elizabeth, her relative, who lived in a town in the hill country of Judea. She wanted to share the good news from the angel with Elizabeth. But before she could say anything the Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth. And Elizabeth praised God that Mary believed what the angel told her— that she, a virgin, could have a baby, God's very own Son. Keep yourself pure, a virgin, till you get married, too. Special blessings come to those who do so. We can praise God when the Holy Spirit fills us. Mary truly enjoyed one good news after another. Mary could rest assured that it was an angel of the Lord that had appeared to her. Do you know God brings people into our lives to help us believe him and to help us obey what he asks of us while alone with him in prayer? It is God's way of assuring you it is indeed true He spoke to you so you would know that He is real and faithful.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Mary hurry to Elizabeth's house?
2. What did Elizabeth do when she saw Mary?
3. What does God do to help us believe in him and obey what he asks us to do while alone with him in prayer?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can praise you. Open my eyes to see Christian friends you bring into my life to help me serve you better. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

The Holy Spirit fills me so I can praise God.

Day 6

READ

Luke 1:57-66

John Is Born

After some time, Zechariah and Elizabeth's baby was born just as the angel had said. Friends and relatives came to see him. They wanted to name the baby Zechariah, just like the baby's father. But Elizabeth said, "No, his name is John." The relatives and friends were surprised. They asked Zechariah what the baby's name should be. Zechariah wrote, "His name is John." Suddenly, he could speak. Zechariah saw what the Lord did, and he believed, and now he could speak. He praised God, telling about the blessings, Jesus, who was yet to be born, would bring to the world and how his son, John, would prepare the Jews for his coming, in Luke 1:67-79. Everyone who believes what the Bible says about Jesus, our Savior, hears and sees what God is doing in the world, and praises him. Did God do things for you in the past? What is God doing for you now? Remember to praise him for all he does for you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Zechariah do when he was able to talk again? 2. What did the relatives and friends do when they heard Zechariah praising God? 3. Did God do what he promised Zechariah through the angel?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, help me praise you like Zechariah. Help me know that you keep your promises. And you will do everything you promise in the Bible. Help me also to keep my promises to my family members and friends, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God keeps his promises.

Day 7

READ
Luke 2:1-7

Jesus Is Born

Along time ago, Caesar Augustus was Emperor of Rome. The people of his land were called Romans. The Romans conquered many countries and ruled them. Jesus' country, Israel, was also conquered, and the Romans ruled them. One day, Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, issued a decree that all the people living in the Roman Empire should be counted. Everyone had to go to his hometown to be counted. The emperor wanted to know how many people he ruled. Joseph was from Bethlehem. That was his hometown, so he took Mary, who was expecting, along with him to Bethlehem. Could it just be that Joseph and Mary couldn't find a room to stay the night because the innkeepers figured they were poor folks? They couldn't have known that Mary had the best gift the world needed just by looking at her, so unlike a princess. God's best gifts always arrive humbly wrapped. Finally, they found a place in a stable. Mary gave birth to baby Jesus, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and placed him in the manger, not a crib. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, just as the prophets of God said. Mary had a baby boy just as the angel said. God keeps his promises.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Joseph take Mary along to Bethlehem?
2. What happened to Mary when they got to Bethlehem?
3. Why was Jesus put in a manger (cattle/sheep feeding box)?
4. Do you have room in your heart for Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: I make room in my heart for you today, dear Jesus.

Today's Wise Words: Every day there is some part of my life where I can make room for Jesus.

Day 8

Shepherds Hear the Good News

READ
Luke 2:8-20

The night Jesus was born, there were shepherds taking care of their sheep in fields near Bethlehem. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and told them the good news of Jesus' birth. Not a minute too soon, many more angels joined that one angel and they praised God together. The good news is that Jesus brings peace to all who believe in his name. The shepherds went to the stable to see Jesus. After, they hurried back to town and told others the good news of Jesus' birth. The shepherds gave Jesus their best gift—worship. God's word to them through the angel had been true indeed. True angels point people to Jesus, and their messages agree with what God has said in the Bible. The shepherds worshipped by giving glory to God, praising him, and telling others about Jesus. Would you worship God today for all you have heard and seen Jesus do in your life?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the angels appear to the shepherds?
2. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: Thank you God that Jesus brings peace to all who believe in him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus was born to bring peace to all who believe in him.

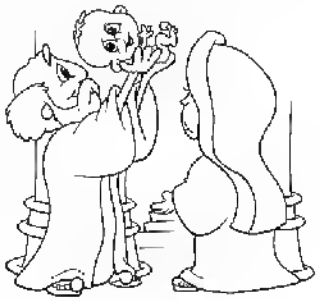
Day 9

READ

Luke 2:21-28

Simeon and Baby Jesus

Mary's baby was circumcised on the eighth day and he was named Jesus. Forty days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph, his parents, took him to the Temple to present him to the Lord along with a pair of doves as an offering. The Law of Moses (Numbers 8:17) required that all firstborn sons of Israel were presented to God this way. God gave Moses that law. An old man named Simeon used to spend a lot of time in the Temple. The Holy Spirit had told him he would not die until he saw Jesus, the baby born to save the world from sin (that is why we call him "Christ," which means a person anointed like a king for a special job). "Up, and on your way," the Holy Spirit whispered into the heart of Simeon, the very moment Mary and Joseph stepped into the Temple with baby Jesus. On reaching the Temple, Simeon took the baby in his arms and praised God.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Joseph and Mary take baby Jesus to the Temple?
2. Who told Simeon he would not die until he saw the Christ?
3. Who told Simeon to go to the Temple because Jesus had been brought there?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn from the story?

My Prayer: Holy Spirit, speak to me, as you did with Simeon, so I will be where you always want me to be, in Jesus name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit speaks into my heart.

Day 10

READ
Luke 2:28-35

Simeon Praises God

Simeon praised God. He was happy and now ready to die because God had kept his promise to him into old age—letting him see his Salvation. *God's Salvation* is a person. That person is Jesus, the Christ. Joseph and Mary marveled at what Simeon said about baby Jesus. Mary was still enjoying one good news after another. Jesus is the light of all the people in the world. We cannot see without light—Jesus will make us see God as he is and love him as we ought. The light of Jesus shines on the hearts of all people, showing us what wicked and awful sinners we are so we can come to him to save us. But there are others realizing how wicked and awful sinners they are, rather hate Jesus. Some of these in Jesus' time bunched together and crucified him. That was what Simeon told Mary about, "And a sword will pierce your own soul." The Holy Spirit reminded Simeon of the Scriptures he'd read about the Christ many times and prompted him to speak about them to Jesus' parents. If you also keep reading the Bible daily, the Holy Spirit will give you the right Scriptures to use to help others and yourself in every situation. Scriptures is another name for the Bible.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why do you think Simeon praised God when he saw baby Jesus? 2. Write two other things Simeon said about baby Jesus.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Holy Spirit, teach me more about Jesus so I can use the right Scriptures to encourage others. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit teaches about Jesus.

Day 11

READ
Luke 2:36-40

Anna and Baby Jesus

Anna is a fascinating woman and we must learn from her. Her husband had died only seven years into their marriage. She could have been angry with God and become a bitter person. But as a wise woman who trusted God, she saw new opportunities to serve God. She devoted herself to God in a new way, praying and fasting for others and herself, and telling people about the coming Saviour of the world. Because Anna trusted God, she had hope. And she had the rare privilege of meeting baby Jesus in the Temple where she spent most of her time, and spoke to those present of how he would deliver people from their sins. Anna became part of Jesus' story, which we are reading about today. Would you like to part of Jesus story too? God wants you to open your eyes to see new opportunities to serve him and other people should you lose someone very dear to you or things which are important to you. Jesus grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom and the power of God. God fills all his children with wisdom and power so they will become strong to serve him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Anna do day and night in the Temple?
2. What did Anna do when she saw baby Jesus?
3. Have you seen Jesus? What should you do?
4. What happened to Jesus as he grew?

In Your Own Words: Write down in your owns words what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, like your son Jesus, help me grow and become strong. Fill me with wisdom and the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God fills his children with his wisdom and power so they'll become strong to serve him.

Day 12

READ
Matthew: 2:1-8

Wise Men in Jerusalem

Some wise men from the east saw a strange star. It was a supernatural star, unlike the others they studied night after night. Must be the star of *the king* of Israel that Balaam, one of their diviners (magi), prophesied about long ago in Numbers 24:17. Realizing what God was showing them, they hurried to Jerusalem, the great city of Israel, to find out about this baby king so they could worship him. Do you know God is still showing Jesus to idol worshippers, pagans, and people in different religions just as he did for these wise men so they can come to Jesus to save them? King Herod, the king of Israel, at that time, was very angry another king had been born. If he knew which town, then he could easily locate the house and the baby. The chief priests who studied the Bible (the Old Testament) told Herod where the king was to be born—"Bethlehem," they said. King Herod told the wise men to go to Bethlehem and search for the baby king so he could soon follow to worship him, too. A fat lie—really, *Kind* Herod intended to kill Jesus. But, all wise people seek Jesus to worship him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the wise men travel all the way to Jerusalem?
2. Who found out for them where the baby king had been born?
3. What is God doing for people in different religions?
4. Did Herod actually want to worship Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, let me search your Bible to know more about Jesus to worship him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Seek Jesus to worship him.

Day 13

READ
Matthew: 2:9-12

Wise Men Worship Jesus

The wise men left Jerusalem and went on their way to Bethlehem. Suddenly, the star they had seen in the east appeared once more in the dark sky. They were very happy. The star led them to the home of baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph were living in their own house by then. When they saw baby Jesus, they worshipped him. Worship means praising God for his greatness and his great love for people. People who truly worship God this way show it in the way they love others. The magi showed true worship by sharing. They gave gifts to Jesus—gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. They offered baby Jesus *gold* because he is the *King*. God commanded the Jewish priests to burn *incense* to him in the Temple as part of their prayers to him.

The wise men offered baby Jesus *incense or frankincense* to show that he is *God* to whom we should pray. They also gave him *myrrh* because he was *human*, and as man he would die; die for our sins. Myrrh was used to embalm dead bodies. These expensive gifts were such a blessing to Jesus' poor parents. Giving is part of worshipping God. God knew the evil King Herod was planning. So he warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to him. The wise men obeyed God and took another route back to their own country.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How did the wise men find where baby Jesus was?
2. Write down two things the wise men did when they saw Jesus.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me to understand that Jesus is my king, my God, and my Savior. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Worship God by giving to the needy.

Day 14

READ

Matthew: 2:13-18

Joseph Takes His Family to Egypt

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph to take baby Jesus and Mary, and go 300 miles to a country called Egypt. Joseph obeyed immediately. He packed their stuff, took baby Jesus and his wife, Mary, and hit the road during the night. King Herod, as mad as a March hare, gave orders to his soldiers to kill all baby boys living in baby Jesus' town, Bethlehem and in all that region. His soldiers killed many babies in and around Bethlehem. King Herod was furious because the wise men had not come back to tell him where to find baby Jesus. Joseph and his family stayed in Egypt until king Herod died. God knows everything and can protect us from evil people like King Herod.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did an angel appear to Joseph in a dream?
2. What did King Herod do in his anger?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: Father God, Joseph believed you and obeyed what you told him in the dream. So baby Jesus wasn't killed along with the other babies. Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus were already on their way to Egypt. Father, help me understand that the only way to keep out of trouble is to obey your Bible, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Obeying God's Word steers me away from dangerous situations.

Day 15

Joseph and His Family Go Back Home

READ
Matthew: 2:19-23

Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus escaped from Bethlehem as the angel told them to, because Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus. Now they were all living safely in Egypt. When King Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph again in a dream and told him to go back to their home country, Israel. Joseph obeyed and took his wife Mary, and baby Jesus, back to their country, Israel. He went first to Judea with his family. But when he heard that King Herod's son was reigning as king in the region of Judea, he was afraid and took his family to live in the town of Nazareth, which was in the region called Galilee. Joseph obeyed whatever the angel told him. Is the Holy Spirit telling you to do something about what you read in the Bible a few days ago or what you are reading today? Are there trouble spots or hard times in your community or country? Cry out to God. God still sends his angels to help his children if he so chooses, even today. He may also send people to help you. Trust him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How did Joseph know it was safe to go back to Israel? Is God still using angels to help Christians today?
2. If Joseph hadn't obeyed, what do you think could have happened?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord, help me obey all that I read in your Word because it will guide my steps into places where I can receive blessings you have in store for me. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God knows all the trouble spots in the world and future ones, too. Trust him to take care of you.

Day 16

READ
Luke: 2:41-52

Jesus in the Temple

When Jesus was twelve years old, he went to Jerusalem with his parents to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. When the celebration was over, Jesus' family started out back home not knowing that Jesus had stayed behind in Jerusalem. They had traveled for one day when they realized that Jesus was missing. So they began looking for him. They found him in the Temple in Jerusalem. He was in the company of the teachers. He listened to them and asked questions. Do you have questions about God? Where should you go? Why don't you discuss with other Christians. Jesus' answers surprised the teachers. He showed a lot of understanding for a child. His parents took him back home. And Jesus continued to obey his parents. And he continued to grow strong and wise. Even Jesus, who is God, obeyed his parents while here on earth, and you must too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What was Jesus doing in the Temple? 2. What was Jesus' answer when his mother found him in the Temple? What does it teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord, teach me to love the people in my church, to listen to your Word, and to ask questions. Help me gain more understanding of your Word, that is the Bible, even as I listen and obey. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Even Jesus, who is God, obeyed his parents while here on earth.

Day 17

John the Baptist Begins His Ministry

READ
Matthew: 3:1-6

John the Baptist was a special prophet. Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, (Isaiah 40:3) wrote about John hundreds of years before he was born. Remember that Zechariah and Elizabeth were John's parents. John was now a grown man and a prophet of God. He wore clothes made of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. John led a simple life. All who truly want to live for God must lead simple lives and resist the temptation of filling our lives with so many activities and goals, which do not help us to love God better. God sent John to come and make the people ready for Jesus. How did John prepare the people? He preached to them. He told them to stop sinning and come near to God. Many people flocked to him, confessing their bad and sinful ways. John then baptized them in the Jordan River. John was doing what God told him to do. Do you know Jesus is coming back to earth one day? God has called all Christians to tell others about Jesus just as John did, to prepare them for his second coming. That way many will be saved and escape the lake of fire. Start telling people about Jesus, too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What was John preaching to the people who flocked to him? 2. Why did John lead a simple life? What steps are you taking to lead a simple life (live simply)?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to get people ready for Jesus' second coming by telling them about him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Prepare for Jesus' second coming by telling others about him.

Day 18

READ
Matthew: 3:7-12

John the Baptist Preaches

Some of the Pharisees and Sadducees also came to listen to John the Baptist. The Pharisees were a religious group who strictly kept the Law of Moses, which is found in the first five books of the Bible. The Sadducees were another religious group but they did not believe in the resurrection, angels, and spirits. John knew that members of both groups did not really want to turn from their bad ways. John sounded a warning—people who only seemed sorry for their sins and yet did not turn away from their evil ways to do what was right were liars, and God was about to punish them. God punishes sin. God wants us to tell him about our sins but he also wants us to stop doing those same bad things over and over again. John also told them about somebody who would come and fill or baptize people with the Holy Spirit. John was talking about Jesus Christ.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did John tell the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to listen to him?
2. What does God want us to do after asking him to forgive us our sins?
3. Who was the one John said would come and fill us or "baptize" us with the Holy Spirit?

In Your Own Words: Write down today's lessons.

My Prayer: Father, forgive me for doing the same bad things over and over again. Holy Spirit, give me power to say 'no' to sin and 'yes' to living right. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

I must do what is right after asking God to forgive me.

Day 19

READ
Matthew: 3:13-17

Jesus Is Baptized

John was baptizing the people who were sorry for their sins in the Jordan River. Jesus also came to John to be baptized. Jesus was now a grown man. You must remember that Jesus never sinned, so John was very surprised when Jesus asked to be baptized. John told Jesus that instead, he needed to be baptized by him. John agreed to baptize Jesus because it was part of God's plan for Jesus' work on earth (Isaiah 53:12).

Has God called you to do something? If he has, he will approve it by leading you by his Holy Spirit to understand why and how it should be done, based on what the Bible says, just as he did for John. Jesus' baptism was the first step in God's plan to openly show that Jesus was taking our sins upon himself, which he would shortly die for. When Jesus was being baptized the heavens opened and the Spirit of God in a form of a dove descended on Jesus. Then a voice from heaven said, "You are my Son whom I love, and I am very pleased with you." That was the voice of God. The Holy Spirit comes upon all and fills all who accept Jesus into their hearts. God is pleased with all who are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why was John surprised when Jesus asked to be baptized? 2. What happened when Jesus was being baptized? 3. What did the voice from heaven say?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you God for speaking from heaven that Jesus is really your Son. I believe it. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

God spoke from heaven and said that Jesus is his Son.

Day 20

READ
Matthew: 4:1-4

The First Temptation of Jesus

As soon as Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down on him. The Holy Spirit filled him with power to do God's work on earth. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. You know how bare (few plants) and how dry (little water) a desert is. Jesus fasted (went without food) for forty days and so he was very hungry. The devil came to tempt him. The devil is called the tempter here. Because Jesus was very hungry, the devil told him to turn stones lying around into bread to eat. But Jesus knew better. God does not want us to use the power of the Holy Spirit to perform wonders to show off and impress others. Rather, God wants us to allow the power of the Holy Spirit to help us *understand* his Word and *obey* it by using it the right way. That was what Jesus meant when he told the devil that "we don't live just on food but also on the Word of God." Jesus spoke the Word of God to overcome the tempter. You should speak what you learn from the Bible when you are being tempted.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who tempted Jesus? And who tempts you?
2. Who led Jesus into the desert?
3. So when the Holy Spirit fills you or comes on you what does he do in and through you?
4. How did Jesus overcome the tempter?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord, lead me by your Holy Spirit and help me speak your Word and obey it when I am tempted, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The Word of God helps me overcome the tempter in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 21

The Second Temptation of Jesus

READ
Matthew: 4:5-7

The devil tempted Jesus a second time. This time, he took Jesus to the holy city, Jerusalem, and had him stand on the highest point of the Temple. He then told Jesus to throw himself down from that height because God had promised in his word to protect him. But Jesus knew better. Jesus said, "It is written." This is what Jesus meant by "it is written"—he was going to quote something from the Word of God (the Bible). Jesus said that it was wrong to test God. For example, just because God said he'd protect you from all harm doesn't mean you should jump from a moving truck or jump from the upper floors of a tall building on purpose and expect him to save you. That is a foolish thing to do. The devil used the word of God to tempt Jesus to do what was wrong. The Word of God must not be used to tempt people or test God. Neither should you use the word of God to lie, cheat nor harm others. We must use the Word of God to overcome sin and all wrongdoing.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus use to overcome the devil?
2. What's Jesus' way of using the Word of God? What does this teach you?
3. What's the devil's way of using the Word of God? What does this teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me know your Word and keep it in my heart so I can use it to overcome wrongdoing in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words

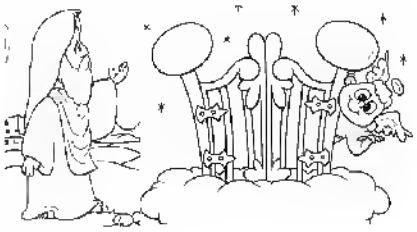
Use God's Word in Jesus' way to overcome temptations.

Day 22

The Third Temptation of Jesus

READ
Matthew: 4:8-11

The devil tempted Jesus a third time. This time, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. From there, Jesus could see all the kingdoms of the world and its riches. The devil told Jesus he'd give him all those kingdoms if he'd worship him. But Jesus shooed the devil away, telling him the Bible said we should worship God alone. When the devil saw that Jesus had overcome him, he went away. Jesus defeated the devil because he knew the Word of God.



Only God must be worshipped. Do you know that the kingdoms of the world and the worlds to come all belong to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Sometimes the devil tricks us by offering to give us something we already have. If you have Christ in your heart, you have all good gifts from God (Psalm 84:11). You don't need to do something wrong, worship the devil or idols, or people, or ideas to get what you need or want. You just have to ask God who will give them to you in his timing, which is always best.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is the only one that all men must worship?
2. What helped Jesus to overcome the devil?
3. List some ways the devil tricks us out of the good things we already have?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord, help me worship you alone through Jesus Christ. Assure me every day that I have all I need in Jesus; all I have to do is to ask You. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.

Day 23

Jesus Begins His Ministry

READ
Luke 4:14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, began preaching in the region of Galilee. He taught the word of God in small meetings held in their meeting-places (which were called *synagogues*). Jesus worshipped regularly on the seventh day of the week because God commanded the Jews to keep that day holy. One Sabbath, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth, his hometown. He was asked to read the Word of God, which was on a scroll. Jesus opened to a passage in Isaiah. The passage talked about someone filled with the Holy Spirit who would come and preach good news to the poor, open the eyes of the blind, and set free those who are in chains and suffering from the hands of other people. Having done with the reading, Jesus told them he was the one that would do all the good things listed in the passage he'd just read. Jesus is the Savior. He saves us from sin, heals us when we fall sick, and sets us free from unhealthy ideas, bad practices and behaviors of our tribes, nations, and races, as well as evil imaginations, which altogether keep us in chains like prisoners so we can do great things for God and people.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do on the Sabbath day?
2. From which book did Jesus read while in the synagogue?
3. What did Jesus say after reading?
4. List some of the things Jesus came to do for you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you have learned today.
My Prayer: Thank you Lord for sending Jesus to save me, heal me, and set me free from evil. Amen.

Today's Wise Words
Jesus himself confessed he was the promised Savior.

Day 24

READ
Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus' First Followers

One day, Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. Remember Nazareth was a town in the region of Galilee where Joseph settled with his family after their return from Egypt. Jesus saw two fishermen, the brothers Simon and Andrew. They were fishing. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me." Jesus told them he would teach them how to bring men to God. Simon and Andrew were delighted. They stopped fishing and followed Jesus. Nearby, John and James were also fishing with their father, Zebedee. Jesus saw them and called them to come and follow him. And you know what they did? They followed him immediately. How obedient! Some people argue that they have not heard the voice of Jesus calling them to follow him. But if you are reading these notes today, or if others have talked to you about Jesus, then you must pay attention because it means Jesus is calling you, and you must follow him just as the first disciples did. He will teach you how to bring people to know and walk with God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus promise to teach Simon and Andrew? 2. Did Simon, Andrew, John, and James follow Jesus when they were asked? 3. How is Jesus calling people today to follow him?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me follow you every day by reading the Bible and obeying it. That way, I can bring others to follow you, too. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: I must follow Jesus everyday. He will teach me how to bring others to God.

Day 25

READ

Luke 5:27-31

Jesus Calls Levi

One day, Jesus met a tax collector called Levi. Tax collectors collected moneys from people to give to the government. But in Jesus' time the tax collectors sometimes collected more than they should. Then they kept the rest of the money for themselves. Many people in Jesus' time hated the tax collectors because they were cheats. Jesus went to the booth where Levi sat collecting taxes. Jesus told Levi to follow him. Levi was delighted. He left everything and followed Jesus. He was so happy he threw a party for Jesus at his house. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were not happy. The teachers of the law were men who knew the Bible very well in Jesus' time. People usually came to see them to solve problems they had with others. The Law of Moses is found in the first five books of the Old Testament, which are part of the Bible. They complained about Jesus dining with a bad person like Levi. They did not understand that God loves people who do wrong things too and wants to save them from their sin if they come to him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who did Jesus find at the tax booth? 2. What did Jesus tell him? 3. What did Levi do when Jesus told him to follow him? 4. Why were the Pharisees angry?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me understand that you still love me even when I do wrong things, and you extend this same love to every person in this world. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus loves people even though they do wrong things and wants to save them from their sin.

Day 26

READ
John 1:43-51

Jesus Calls Philip

One day, Jesus found Philip and told him to follow him. And guess what! He did. He followed Jesus and even more. He was so delighted he went looking for Nathaniel. Philip told Nathaniel he had found the man the Law and Prophets spoke about. First, Nathaniel couldn't believe it. If Jesus was really from a small village like Nazareth, then he couldn't be the Christ, the Savior. Nathaniel didn't believe that the Savior the prophets spoke about would come from Nazareth. But when Jesus told Nathaniel things about himself that nobody else knew he believed that Jesus was truly the Messiah (meaning God's chosen one, the Son of God, anointed like a king for a special job). Nathaniel decided to follow him. He was delighted, too. Jesus promised Nathaniel he would see greater things. And Nathaniel saw greater things—the powerful teachings of Jesus changing people, his miracles, his death, and his rising from the dead. Jesus promises all who follow him that they will see greater things. Prepare to see greater things in your life as you follow Jesus every day. Jesus is the only ladder that leads to God the Father. All God's angels obey whatever Jesus commands because they work under him. This is what Jesus meant when he told Nathaniel about angels going up and down the ladder.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Philip do when he found Jesus? 2. Why did Nathaniel come to believe in Jesus after all?

My Prayer: Holy Spirit, prepare me to see the greater things Jesus promised to all who follow him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Prepare to see greater things in your life, as you follow Jesus everyday.

Day 27

READ
John 2:1-11

Jesus' First Miracle

Jesus and his family were invited to a wedding at Cana. Jesus went with his disciples. There were so many guests. They were served food and wine. But oops! The wine was soon finished. Just imagine inviting friends to your home for a party and oops! You run out of juice or soda. It's quite embarrassing! So, Jesus' mother asked him to help. Jesus told the servants to fill up all the stone jars with water. When they were done, he asked them to scoop a cup for the man in charge. The man in charge tasted it. It tasted better than the wine that was served earlier. Jesus had turned the water into wine! And not only that, his wine tasted the best. Jesus performs miracles to get our attention to seek the greatest miracle of all—saving our souls from sin to escape the coming judgment on everyone who has rebelled against God by living in and enjoying sin. This miracle also teaches us that the good things we enjoy in this world are nothing compared to the good things God gives to those who place their trust in him. Jesus meets our needs so we can place our trust in him completely.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to solve the problem? Why did he do it?
2. Does Jesus care that your birthday party or special event goes well? Why would Jesus care?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, help me know that Jesus performs miracles. Give me faith to trust you for a miracle in my life today, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus performs miracles and can save me from embarrassing situations.

Day 28

Jesus Heals Simon's Mother-in-law

READ
Luke 4:38-39

Jesus, Simon, and his brother Andrew found Simon's mother-in-law sick in bed with a fever in Simon's home. Imagine Simon (also called Peter) and Andrew refusing to ask for Jesus' help because they didn't want to bother him. Or thinking, it is just the same old measly fever, let's give it a few more days, and she would be well. Poor mother-in-law would have had to bear the pain and weakness for many more days. Jesus wants us to have the attitude of Simon and Andrew, never thinking we are bothering him when we tell him about our little problems. Or, thinking that the problem will clear by itself in a few days so why ask for Jesus' help. Jesus told the fever to leave Simon's mother-in-law. And immediately, she became well and served them dinner. Jesus wants you to enjoy living for him. Don't be like the child who wouldn't allow his father to fix his broken toy and spent all his childhood trying to fix it instead of enjoying it. When you learn to give your little problems to Jesus, it becomes easier to trust him with bigger ones also.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Simon and Andrew do when they found Simon's mother-in-law sick? 2. What should you do when you or any of your family members fall sick?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me always to ask Jesus to help me when I have a need, however little, just as Simon and Andrew did, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is always ready to help me even with little things. I only have to ask him.

Day 29

Jesus Walks Away from Trouble

READ
John 4:1-4

One day Jesus had to go through a region in Palestine called Samaria. The people there were called Samaritans. They were descendants of Jews who hundreds of years earlier had married people from neighboring countries (descendants are children, great-grandchildren, great-great-grand-children and so on; the family keeps growing as the children marry; all those born later in this family become their descendants) brought to settle there by the Assyrian kingdom. The Jews are descendants of Jacob (read the story of Jacob in the Genesis chapters 25-35 in your spare time). Jesus was a Jew, a descendant of King David. Why did Jesus decide to go back to Galilee? The Pharisees (see Day 18) were upset with Jesus. Jesus said that the Pharisees did not want to please God but rather people. They did not like Jesus because he preached the truth. Jesus was also making many disciples and the Pharisees became jealous. Jesus decided to leave Judea for Galilee. Jesus was a man of peace. He did not want a quarrel between him and the Pharisees, so he decided to leave the place where he was. Do you know it's better to walk away from persons who want to quarrel or fight with you?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do when he saw that the Pharisees were upset with him? 2. What do you do when someone wants to quarrel or fight with you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me walk away from quarrels and fights just as Jesus did. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Walk away from quarrels and fights.

Day 30

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

READ
John 4:5-9

We are continuing yesterday's story. Jesus came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. He was tired so he sat down by Jacob's well. Before long, a Samaritan woman came by, ready to draw water from the well. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for water. Well, the Samaritan woman was very surprised because Jews did not like Samaritans. She wondered how a Jew could ask her, a Samaritan woman, for water. Jesus did not follow the bad practices of his fellow Jews who treated the Samaritans with disrespect. There may be some issues between your tribe and another tribe, or your community and another community, or your race and another race. Jesus teaches us not to follow the bad practices of the people or particular groups we belong to. Rather, we must be kind and respectful toward those who do not belong to our particular group, the same way Jesus treated the Samaritan woman. Were you ever surprised by a kind deed from a person you thought disliked you? Jesus wants us to love and respect all people no matter where they come from or what they look like.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman for water? 2. How should you treat people who don't belong to your group, tribe or race?

In Your Own Words: Write down today's lesson.

My Prayer: God, teach me to be kind to people of different races and tribes I have been trained not to like. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Be kind to people no matter where they come from or what they look like.

Day 31

READ
John 4:10

Jesus Gives Living Water

You remember that Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for water. She was very surprised because Jews did not like Samaritans and they would never even ask them for help. Why would Jesus dare ask her for water? Jesus gave an answer in the passage we read today. The Samaritan woman did not know that Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior of the world. So, Jesus told her about the gift of God that he alone could give. And that *gift* is eternal life. Eternal life means you have Jesus living in you and therefore you can begin experiencing some of the wonders of heaven right here on earth before you get there one day. God wants to give everyone this gift. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that if she asked him, he would give her living water. The living water is the Holy Spirit. When you ask Jesus to forgive your sins and to become your Lord and Savior, he sends the Holy Spirit to live in you. You have eternal life if the Holy Spirit lives in you. Jesus wants everyone to ask him for living water. Jesus wants everyone to have the gift of God, which is eternal life. Jesus was eager to tell the Samaritan woman the good news. Jesus wants us to tell our friends about him, too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus promise to give the Samaritan woman? What is the gift of God? Who is the living water? 2. How can we experience some of the good things in heaven right here on earth? List some.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you that Jesus has offered to give me eternal life when I come to him to save me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus gives eternal life to those who turn from their bad ways and ask him.

Day 32

READ

John 4:11-14

The Samaritan Woman Questions Jesus

We are still reading the story about Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Jesus had told the Samaritan woman that he was able to give her *living water* or *life-giving water*. The Samaritan woman didn't expect that answer from a thirsty traveler! So she asked Jesus how he was going to give her that living water when he had no rope or a bucket to draw water from the well. The Samaritan woman was talking about *physical water*, but Jesus was talking about *saving her from sin*. Just like the Samaritan woman, we all pay more attention to things that will help us survive here on earth only—food, toys, clothes, houses, jobs, family, vacation, trips, fame, success, money, and the like. God would have us rather pay more attention to *living right* with him. Why? God wants to give us eternal life. You can receive eternal life when you agree with God that Jesus died in your place so that you won't have to pay for your sins at the end of the world. Jesus then makes us God's children and gives us eternal life when we believe in Him. Which is wiser—to get all the things you want and all the fun (if that were even possible) and miss experiencing some of the wonders of heaven here on earth and finally end up in the lake of fire? Or, to ask Jesus to wash you from your sins? Heaven is going to be a very exciting place. Nothing on this present earth can compare to what is awaiting us in the new earth and heaven. It is impossible to compare.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How do you know you have living water in you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Lord I can experience some of the good things of heaven here on earth because Jesus lives in me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus gives living water.

Day 33

The Samaritan Woman Asks for Living Water

READ
John 4:15

The Samaritan woman was wise. She asked Jesus to give her this life-giving water. Living water is the same as life-giving water. How do you become wise? You become wise by asking Jesus to give you life-giving water. As explained earlier, we receive the gift of eternal life when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, and to become our Master (Lord) and Savior. You can pray the *Sinner's Prayer* on page xvi of this book if you would like to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you must mean it. Probably, you have said this prayer before. You only have to say it once, and that's all—but you have to mean it! If you have said it and you really meant it, you are now a child of God, full of the living water who is the Holy Spirit. You also have the gift of God, which is eternal life. Once you become a child of God, the Holy Spirit helps you say 'no' to sin and 'yes' to doing right. When you do wrong things, you ask God to forgive you (1John 1:8-9). Then you ask the Holy Spirit to give you power not to repeat those wrong things.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the Samaritan woman ask Jesus to give her?
2. Are you full of *life-giving water*? What does that make you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you, I am your child because I have asked Jesus into my life and the living water lives in me.

Memorize John 4:11 (NIV): *Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

Today's Wise Words: Wise people have living water in them.

Day 34

READ
John 4:19-21

The Samaritan Woman Asks About Worship

Jesus was still chatting with the Samaritan woman. Jesus had told the woman some things about herself that Jesus couldn't have known unless he was a prophet. Now she believed that Jesus was a prophet. What an opportunity—she was actually talking to a prophet! She had questions for Jesus. She wanted to know where God should be worshipped—on a mountain nearby, or in Jerusalem. Jesus explained to her that there was no need to go to some special place to worship God. The Holy Spirit living in you helps you worship God by teaching you more about Jesus and gives you power to put what you learn into practice. You can worship God wherever you are—school, office, on the job, with friends or alone, home, playground or church because the Holy Spirit lives in you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Where can you worship God?
2. Why is it possible to worship God anywhere you find yourself.
3. What should you be doing anywhere you find yourself.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me know that I can worship you anywhere because your Holy Spirit lives in me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: I can worship God any place and anytime if the Holy Spirit lives in me.

Day 35

READ
John 4:22

Salvation Is from the Jews

Jesus was still explaining what worship was all about to the Samaritan woman. The Samaritan woman had asked Jesus whether the right place to worship was only Jerusalem. The Samaritans did not go up to worship in Jerusalem, but worshipped on a mountain nearby. The temple in Jerusalem was where all Jews went to celebrate and worship God. God chose the temple in Jerusalem as the only place of worship at that time. We have already talked about who the Samaritans were (Day 29). The Samaritans, who also lived in Israel, disobeyed God and worshipped in another temple located on a mountain nearby. The Temple in Jerusalem was where the priests taught the Jews and showed them how to live right with God. Do you remember that Jesus and his parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast? Jesus' parents obeyed God. Jesus told the woman that the Samaritans did not know God. Those who know God obey him. Do you obey God? Jesus also told the woman that God had planned to save the world by a Jew. And you know who that Jew is? That Jew is Jesus. You don't know God if you don't obey him. God is asking everyone in the world to make Jesus his Lord and Savior. Have you obeyed?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Those who know God _____ him.
2. What is the one thing God is asking everyone in the world to do?
3. Those who don't accept Jesus as Lord and Savior don't _____ God.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you for helping me to obey you by accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Those who know God obey him.

Day 36

READ
John 4:23

True Worshippers

Jesus was still explaining what worship was all about. If you remember, the Samaritan woman had asked Jesus where God should be worshipped. Jesus explained that you could worship God anyplace or anywhere. Jesus also told the woman, "those who know God obey him." The Samaritans did not know God so they did not obey him. Jesus pointed out to her that God had promised to save the world through the Jews (Micah 5:2). How did God do that?—he sent Jesus, the Messiah, to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus was a Jew. In today's verse, Jesus explained to the woman that people who really wanted to worship God would do so through the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit living in them would also teach them all about the truth. Jesus is the truth. God accepts worship only from people who have the Holy Spirit in them. We worship God when we obey what we read in the Bible through the help of the Holy Spirit. God is looking for people who have the Holy Spirit living in them to worship him. If you have the Holy Spirit in you, God accepts your worship.

Dig Out The Answers

1. God is looking for people to worship him through the help of the ___ ____. 2. The Holy Spirit teaches us to worship God in truth. Who is the truth? How does this truth help us worship God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you I am able to worship you in spirit and truth because the Holy Spirit lives in me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

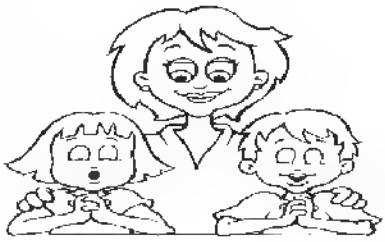
God accepts worship from those filled with the Holy Spirit.

Day 37

READ
John 4:24

True Worship

Today, Jesus explains why we have to worship God in spirit and in truth. We have to worship God in spirit and in truth because God is Spirit. Because God is Spirit, you can only worship him in spirit, that is, through the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the truth, and to worship God, this truth who is Jesus, who is also the Word of God, (John 1:1-5), must live in your heart. Do you have Jesus, the truth, living in you? If so, you have the Holy Spirit living in you. And he will daily make Jesus, the truth, the One the whole Bible teaches about, real to you, as you read and obey, which is your worship. God is everywhere so you can pray to him anywhere you find yourself.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Why do I need to have the truth in me to worship God?
2. God is everywhere so I can worship him __.
3. God is spirit so I have to worship him in __.
4. List some of the ways we worship God.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you to continue to be a good worshiper.

Memorize John 4:24 (NIV): *"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and truth."*

Today's Wise Words
God is spirit.

Day 38

READ
John 4:25-26

Jesus Is the Messiah

The Samaritan woman was all excited. Both Jews and Samaritans knew from the Scriptures that one day God would send the Messiah. Messiah means Christ, and Christ means Savior, anointed like a king to do a very special job. The Samaritan woman also knew about the Messiah. "Probably, this man I'm talking to is the Messiah," the Samaritan woman might have said to herself. It was the way Jesus explained what worship was all about. So she asked Jesus about it. And she received the greatest news of all. She was actually talking to the Messiah, the Savior of the world. How exciting! Have you talked to Jesus, the Savior of the world? I hope you have asked him into your life to be your Savior and Lord. Continue to talk everyday with him by reading the Bible and praying. Jesus makes life very exciting.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who does Jesus say he is?
2. What does Messiah mean?
3. Is Jesus still talking to people the way he did with the Samaritan woman? How is Jesus talking to you today?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, I thank you for sending Jesus, the Messiah, and Savior of the world. Hallelujah!

Today's Wise Words

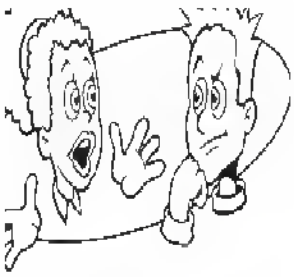
Jesus is the Messiah, Christ or Savior.

Day 39

READ
John 4:27-30

Come See the Messiah

The Samaritan woman was so happy she had found the Messiah, Christ the Savior. What could she do? She had to tell somebody. She decided to go back to town. She told them about Jesus, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did." The people came out in droves to see Jesus. The Samaritan woman felt Jesus' love for her and accepted it. She realized that even though Jesus knew all about her bad life he still loved her and this convinced her to give up her old life of sin and embrace Jesus' love. Jesus is loving you right now even though he knows all about your sinful ways. Accept his love and you will see how his love for you will give you power to turn away from your sinful ways and free you to share his love with others, as the Samaritan woman did. Do you know Jesus knows everything you did in the past? Jesus knows what you are doing now. Jesus even knows what you will do in the future. In fact, Jesus knows everything about everybody in the world. What a great God he is! So you don't have to be afraid. You can go to Jesus, the one who knows everything about you, whenever you have a problem.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the Samaritan woman do when she found Jesus?
2. What did she tell the people in her town?
3. Because Jesus knows everything about me, I .....
.....

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Thank Jesus for loving you even though he knows all about your bad and sinful ways.

Today's Wise Words

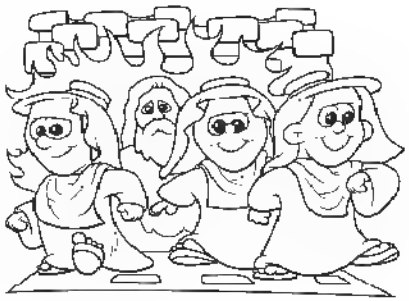
"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did."

Day 40

READ
John
4:39-42

Jesus Stays with the Samaritans

The Samaritan woman had gone back to town to tell about Jesus, the Christ or Messiah. The people in the town believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. She had told them that Jesus was the Savior and he knew everything she ever did. They wanted to hear more of Jesus' teaching. They asked Jesus to stay for a while. Jesus stayed in the town for two more days. He taught them. And many more in the town came to believe that Jesus was indeed the Savior of the world. Today, would you spend a little more time with the Holy Spirit reading the Bible, as the Samaritans did with Jesus, so you will learn more and increase your faith in Jesus, the Savior of the world?



Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did many more in the town believe that Jesus was the promised Savior of the world?
2. Why did the people in the town ask Jesus to stay?
3. How are you planning to spend more time with Jesus today? Would you invite others as well?

In Your Own Words: Write down today's lesson.

My Prayer: God, help me spend more time reading the Bible so I can learn more from the Holy Spirit about Jesus, then my faith in him will grow stronger. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Spend more time to study the Bible, pray, and share what you learn with others.

Day 41

READ
Matthew 5:1-3

The Beatitudes: Poor in Spirit

Jesus now had disciples (followers who learned from him). Jesus wanted to teach them about the kingdom of God. All that Jesus taught in the book of Matthew, from chapter 5 to 7, is called *The Sermon on the Mount*. *Beatitudes* are the blessings, which Jesus described in verses 3 to 12 of chapter 5. Now that you are a disciple or learner of Jesus, he wants to teach you, too. Jesus teaches us that we are happy when we know we are poor in spirit. A poor person is a needy person. Poor people sometimes don't have enough food or clothing and some have no money at all. So a person who is poor in spirit is a person who realizes that he needs Jesus to provide for him. Everybody in the world has a *need to worship God*. And only Jesus can provide that need. God's Holy Spirit helps us realize how much we need Jesus to save us from our sins. For those of us who are already saved, the Holy Spirit helps us to live like people who are saved everyday. How? Our need to worship God drives us to talk to God in prayer, read the Bible, use the power of the Holy Spirit to obey what we learn, and meet with other Christians to share our experiences and teachings from the Bible. The more you know Jesus, the happier you become. The word *blessed* means the happiness and favor, which God gives to those who are citizens of heaven and do the things Jesus spoke about in these verses. Are you happy to worship God through Jesus?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is the one need that everybody in the world has?
2. There is only one person who can meet that need. Who is he?
3. Who helps us realize that we need more of Jesus everyday?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write your own prayer.

Today's Wise Words

I need more of Jesus everyday to stay happy.

Day 42

The Beatitudes: Those Who Weep

READ
Matthew 5:4

Jesus continued to teach his disciples. You are also a disciple of Jesus and he wants to teach you, too. Jesus teaches that people who are truly sorry (weep) for the wrong things they do will find forgiveness and will be filled with *his* comfort. This is the joy that fills people the first time they accept Jesus as Savior and Master of their lives. Comfort is knowing that Jesus is always with you to help you. But even as Christians there are things that make us sad in this world: when we do wrong things (not sharing, not forgiving others, making others feel terrible for how they look, or talk, or the neighbourhood they live, or even the type of family, tribe, or country they belong to). When we do wrong things we become sad because the Holy Spirit living in us tells us they are wrong. It is important to be truly sorry for things we do wrong so the Holy Spirit can fill us with more joy. Jesus also wants us to be sad about people who are not saved from their sins and pray for them, as well as Christians who wrong others. Sometimes, we weep because something bad happens to us, our family, or friends. Jesus promises that if we come to him in prayer, he will comfort us by making us sure that we still belong to him and none of these bad things can stop him from loving us throughout our lives. And none of the bad things that happen to you can stop the beautiful work God is doing in your life everyday. God is strong.

Dig Out The Answers

1. List some things that should make you sad (weep).
2. What should you do when you are sad?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Holy Spirit for bringing me comfort when I face sad times, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Go to God in prayer when sad.

Day 43

READ
Matthew 5:5

The Beatitudes: the humble

Jesus also taught his disciples that "humble people will inherit the earth." The first thing a humble person will do is to admit that he or she needs Jesus to save him or her from sin. Have you prayed that prayer? If so, it means you have started a journey to grow to be even more humble. Jesus wants us to be humble because he himself is humble. Do you know Jesus is equal to God the Father in power and yet he obeyed his Father, left heaven, and came to earth and died to pay for our sins? A humble person does not mind doing things which nobody else wants to do and, which could save others—like picking a banana peel from the hallway at school or your neighbourhood so nobody slips and falls. Humble people *keep* working hard on good things even if they are not rewarded. They don't do these things so they will become powerful and important. *They are happy just doing what is right, no matter what, because they want to please God and love people.* Humble people ask the Holy Spirit to give them strength every day to do even the most dirty and difficult jobs. And one day, God is going to make them rule as kings on the new earth. You can ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be humble at all times and this will make you happy.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why are humble people happy? 2. How can you become humble? 3. Who gives the humble strength to do dirty and difficult work?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer.

Today's Wise Words: Humble people are happy people.

Day 44

The Beatitudes: Hunger and Thirst

READ
Matthew 5:6

The disciples loved to listen to Jesus' teachings. All Christians love to listen to Jesus. Jesus taught the disciples that people who are always eager to find out about God so they can live right by loving other people are blessed. Jesus said that such people are hungry and thirsty for righteousness. Our physical bodies crave for food and water. Why—without food and water, they will starve to death. Same with the way we relate to God, which is called our spiritual life. Do you have a spiritual life? Those who have a relationship with God through Jesus (as their Saviour from sin), have a spiritual life. Those who do not will die and will never know the joy of seeing God and loving Him, as they will spend the rest of their lives in the lake of fire paying for their sins. The Holy Spirit lives in all who have a *spiritual life* and makes us crave after God by making us want to read, obey, and share with others from the Bible, which is our spiritual food. When we really want to live right, God's Holy Spirit gives us the power to do so. We are able to love God and our neighbors, and this makes us very happy.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Where do you find out how to live right?
2. What does Jesus want us to hunger and thirst for?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God I thank you I have a spiritual life because Jesus lives in me, and my relationship with you grows as I read the Bible, obey, and share it through the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Be eager to know God and love him.

Day 45

READ
Matthew 5:7

The Beatitudes: the merciful

Jesus taught about being merciful. God's *mercy* is his kindness to all people. That is why God is always kind to us even when we let him down. He gives us parents to take care of us, friends to play with and to share happy and sad times, beautiful beaches to trap sand crabs and play games, snow to build castles with tunnels, snowmen, and snow angels, rain to provide water for plants and animals; and the sun rises every morning. Above all, he sent Jesus to come and save us from our sins. And because of this great kindness we have received from God, he expects us to show the same kindness to others. Sometimes, it is hard to show kindness to someone who makes fun of you, says unkind things, or tries to bully you. But when we remember that God is always kind to us even though we hardly obey him, it becomes easy to be kind to others, too. People who remember to be kind to others because of the kindness they have received from God who saved them from their sin are happy people. They are happy because they know that every day they experience God's mercy even though they do not deserve it. Write down one thing you do not deserve.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does mercy mean? 2. Who first showed us mercy? 3. Why do we have to show mercy or kindness?

In Your Own Words: Write down today's lesson.

My Prayer: God, teach me to be kind to others always, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Show mercy to other people.

Day 46

The Beatitudes: the pure in heart

READ
Matthew 5:8

Are you enjoying listening to Jesus? The disciples did and I hope you are too! Jesus taught that only those with a pure heart would see God. A pure heart is a heart without sin or any wrongdoing. Do you think there's such a heart? Well, there is! When you ask Jesus to forgive your sins and invite him to be your Lord and Savior, your heart becomes pure. Right. The blood of Jesus washes away all your sins of the past, the sins you are committing now and the sins you'll commit in the future, as you confess and turn away from them. How marvelous! And only those with pure hearts can see God. And now that you have a pure heart, you can see God. But how do we see God? Because we have been washed and made clean, we are able to understand God's Word, obey it and know how God works in our lives and other people's lives. A pure heart is a heart full of God's love. When we have a pure heart we see God's love all around us. And one day we shall see him face to face in heaven.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is a pure heart?
2. How do you get a pure heart?
3. What do you find in a pure heart?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, thank you that the blood of Jesus Christ has washed away my sins. Let my heart, and life, continue to flow with your love and help me see your love all around me. Amen.

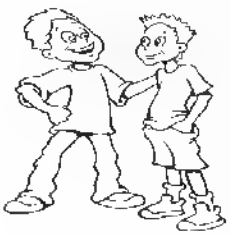
Today's Wise Words: I can see God's love everywhere when my heart is pure.

Day 47

The Beatitudes: the peacemakers

READ
Matthew 5:9

As Jesus went on explaining all these things you may think the disciples were stretching their legs. I am sure they did, but they soon settled down again to listen to Jesus. Jesus teaches that people who bring peace to others are sons of God. Do you know that Jesus is the greatest peacemaker in the world? Yes, it's true. Only Jesus can give us real peace. Millions of people in the world are against God and his ways. They have no peace because they can't and won't obey him. But Jesus' blood paid for their sins as well as ours and made it possible for anyone to have peace with God. A true peacemaker will first admit that Jesus is the only way to peace that will last and will give his or her life to him. Can you list some of the things people who have the peace of Jesus living in them will be able to do? Lots of people think that when they get lots of money and power they will have peace. Others think if only they are free to do whatever they like they will have peace, but they quickly find out it does not work. Every child of God should become a peacemaker. Peacemakers tell their friends and relatives how to get the peace of God. They tell their friends to come to Jesus to find peace. Only Jesus gives true peace. Jesus said that peacemakers are happy people because they show by what they do that they truly are God's children. Would you be a peacemaker, today?



Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is the greatest of all peacemakers?
2. How do we become peacemakers?
3. What do peacemakers do?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus has made me a peacemaker.

Day 48

The Beatitudes: Are you persecuted?

READ
Matthew 5:10-12

The disciples loved what they were hearing. They listened with great intent, and I hope you do too. Jesus taught that you are blessed when you are treated badly for believing in him and obeying him. Do you know that many Christian children and young adults, their families, and friends like you in so many countries are treated badly because they believe in Jesus and obey him? Jesus wants us to stand firm and never to give up believing in his name and obeying his word. You know why? Because one day, you are going to reign like a royal with him in heaven! You will not end up in the lake of fire like those who refuse to believe in Jesus. Sometimes, people may laugh at you for talking about Jesus, or when you try to be good or do what is right. When that happens Jesus says, "be happy" because heaven is already your home and nothing people do to you can stop him from loving you, providing for you, and protecting you. Heaven on earth is the future place for all Christians (Revelation 21:30). And over there, we will realize our greatest goals and become everything we want to be and every day of that life will be full of better surprises.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did somebody ever make fun of you because you talked about Jesus? What did you do?
2. What does Jesus want you to do?

In Your Own Words: Write down today's lesson.

My Prayer: God, let your Holy Spirit make me strong inside so I will always stand up for Jesus and obey him even if I'm teased and laughed at. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

I am a citizen of heaven if Jesus lives in me.

Day 49

READ
Matthew 5:13

Salt of the Earth

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth." You are wondering what that means. You know we put a little salt in food for *flavor*. Food with flavor tastes good. Salt is also added to meat to keep it from *spoiling*. Every Christian has salt. The salt in us is Truth and Love. Jesus is the Truth and Jesus is Love. When Jesus lives in our hearts, it means we live by the truth and are filled with his love. The world is full of sin, and sin is like very rotten food. You'll fall sick or even die if you eat rotten food. Sin makes people sick and kills them just like rotten food. When you have Jesus in you, the Holy Spirit keeps you from being destroyed by sin. Jesus gives you power to overcome sin because he lives in you and he is the salt. Anytime we obey God, we are behaving like salt in the world. We keep sin from spreading too fast and destroying people's lives. We also brighten up people's lives when we obey Jesus. For example, being a friend to a new person in your school or workplace, sharing with people in need, or giving up your allowance or vacation pay to help a missionary spread God's word in other countries—all these things make them glad. It means you are adding flavor to their lives just like salt in food. You are also pointing unbelievers to Jesus, the Savior.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is the salt in your life? 2. What are the two things salt does to food? 3. What do you do to be the salt of the earth?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me live by the truth in your word and to love like Jesus so I will continue to be the salt of the earth, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus has made me the salt of the earth.

Day 50

READ
Matthew 5:14-16

Light of the World

God has saved us through Jesus to be a blessing to the world. One of the blessings we discussed yesterday was that we are *the salt of the earth*. Jesus also taught that we are the *light of the world*. What does that mean? When you walk into a dark room you switch on the light. Why? Because light helps you see! Good. Did you ever visit a dark cave? Or did you ever walk into a dark room with only a spark of light? What did you fix your eyes on—the darkness or the light? The Light. Of course! A small spark of light in a dark place is easily seen. That's how powerful light is. Jesus, is the Light. Jesus helps us see God as he is. When we have the light of Jesus in us, we see clearly what is right and what is wrong and are able to choose to do what is right. One hymn says that the light stands for the *truth* and the warmth from the light is *love*. As we walk with Jesus, we become happy and enjoy peace because we experience God's love in all we do. Then people begin to take notice. They look up to us just as we look at the spark of light in the darkness. And by our lives we may lead them to Jesus—the Savior.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is the light of the world?
2. How do you become the light of the world?
3. What do you do as the light of the world?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: Jesus, help me walk in your light so I can lead others to you. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus has made Christians the light of the world.

Day 51

READ
Matthew 5:17-19

Jesus Fulfilled the Law

God has set rules or laws for everyone to obey. God does not change and God's Word does not change. Ever! God's law is found in the Bible. Have you ever read the Ten Commandments? Probably you have. Do you think you can keep them all without ever breaking one? Of course not! Nobody in the world has been able to keep the commandments because we don't have the power to keep them all without breaking one. God knows that because we are sinners, it will be impossible for us to keep the law. And all those who disobey God will end up in the lake fire when Christ returns. God is just, which means, he is right to punish those who do wrong things. Even here on earth, you are not free to do things that might hurt others; the reason every school and community has laws to abide by. God let Jesus, his only Son, come down to earth to die for our sins so we won't end up in the place of punishment reserved for Satan and his demons. While Jesus was on earth, he obeyed the whole law without breaking one. Yes, Jesus was the only one who kept the whole law. He never sinned and paid your punishment by dying for you. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, God sees Jesus in you, a perfectly obedient child just like Jesus. Now that you have Jesus in your heart you are not a lawbreaker.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who never sinned and obeyed God's law perfectly?
2. What happens to those who break God's law? *Matthew 25:41* 3. What has to happen before God sees you as somebody who obeys the law perfectly? *John 3:15 -19*

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer.

Today's Wise Words: Because Christ obeyed the law perfectly, all who believe in him will not be condemned for not keeping the law. What a great comfort!

Day 52

READ
Matthew 5:20-22

Wicked Words and Anger

Jesus made it clear that it is impossible for anyone to obey the law. And he also added that if anyone wished to enter heaven, that person would have to obey the Law better than the Pharisees. What did he mean? The Pharisees (see Day 18) tried hard to obey the law. The law said not to kill your fellow man. Jesus, who is God, understood the true meaning of all God's laws. So Jesus explained the law better than the Pharisees. Jesus teaches that even if you are angry with somebody without any good reason, God sees you as a murderer. Also, when you call somebody "a fool" out of anger, God sees you as a killer. Wicked thoughts kill people secretly and wicked words kill people slowly. And God sees them all because he knows the thoughts of everyone. Then how can anybody get to heaven since we all sometimes get angry and think, say, and do bad things? Only by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and depending on the Holy Spirit to help you turn away from anger and the use of words that make others feel small. God's law is so right and good that only Christ could keep it because he himself is God. When we accept him as Lord and Savior and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, God sees us the same way he sees Jesus—perfect and obedient children. This is God's mercy.

Dig Out The Answers

1. When you are angry with somebody without a reason what does God call you? 2. Why would God stop seeing you as a murderer when you get angry sometimes? Clue: *1Corinthians 6:9 -11*

In Your Own Words: Write down today's lessons.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer.

Today's Wise Words: God's law is very good and righteous.

Day 53

Make Up with Those You Offend

READ
Matthew 5:23-24

A good worshipper of God must learn to love other people—being kind to them, forgiving when they are wronged, and asking for forgiveness when they wrong others. When we sin by doing wrong things, we are not able to see God clearly, which takes away some of our ability to enjoy other Christians and worship at church gatherings. It's like a driver trying to stay on the road on a foggy morning. It's no fun, and frustrating, and the driver can easily get into an accident. A smart driver will probably stop for the fog to clear. Refusing to make up with people you offend, or those who offend you, is like driving or walking through very thick fog. It clouds your view of God, so you can't see him, his love, and goodness clearly to enjoy him. Like the smart driver, you will have to stop, make up, and pray for God's forgiveness. Making up with people we offend, or those who offend us, helps us enjoy time spent with God—praying, reading the word, and going to church services. How we live with others is so important to God that he would rather have us stop and solve problems we have with others before coming to worship him. That's what is meant by *leave your gift at the altar and go make up with your brother, then come and offer your gift.* Loving others is part of worship.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is it important to live in peace with everyone? 2. What do you do when you hurt someone or someone hurts you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, make me a good worshipper by teaching me to forgive those who wrong me and make up with those I wrong.

Today's Wise Words Good worshippers of God make up quickly with those they wrong.

Day 54

READ
Matthew 5:33-37

Are You Trustworthy?

As children of God, Jesus wants us to be so trustworthy others believe all we tell them. That is trust. You remember that friend who wouldn't make a promise without swearing on his grandmother's grave. Some people are in the habit of mentioning God's name for every little promise they make. That is taking God's name in vain. It means you show no respect for the holy name of God. God doesn't want his children to be like that. God doesn't want us to make promises to people by using his name, or heaven, or earth or even the hairs on our heads to make them believe us. God doesn't want us to mention his name for every little promise we make because we are the kind of people who speak the truth always. So for example if you forget to take the garbage bin out and your parents ask about it, just say, "yes, I forgot to take it out, but I'm going to do it, now." Have you ever been late to work? Did you lie about it to your supervisor? Jesus wants you to learn how to answer with a simple "yes" or "no" because you are trustworthy.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What are you doing when you use God's name flippantly in your promises to others?
2. How do you become the kind of person that people trust or believe?
3. How does Jesus want us to answer questions?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to speak the truth at all times so others will always believe what I tell them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

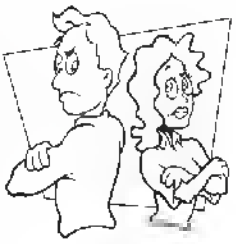
Today's Wise Words: Simply say "Yes" to a "Yes" question or "No" to a "No" question.

Day 55

READ
Matthew 5:38-39

Tit for Tat—Oh No!

Are you enjoying all that Jesus has been teaching so far? Great! What Jesus means by turning the other cheek when someone strikes you is to forgive the person. We are not supposed to do tit for tat, butter for bread. That's what is meant by, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." You remember the lesson on Christians as salt of the earth? Good! For example, if someone hits you with a hockey stick and you hit back, what do you think is going to happen? You will probably have a big fight. To prevent wrongdoing from spreading, Jesus wants us to forgive. Sometimes though, you will have to report certain incidents on the school field or park or workplace to your supervisor. They have received training to solve such problems. But you must not think evil things in your heart against the person who hurt you. You must be willing to be kind to him even after what happened. The Holy Spirit living in you helps you love at all times (Romans 5:5). Remember, loving someone is not always a warm feeling; it is deciding in your heart not to pay back wrongdoing and that keeps you calm and refreshed like a cup of cold water on a hot afternoon.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What does it mean to turn the other cheek?
2. When somebody hurts you while on the playground what are you to do? What about when it happens at your workplace or home? How should you treat such people after the incident?
3. Who helps you forgive and love those who are mean to you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Memorize 1John 4:11 (KJV): *"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."* Now pray with it.

Today's Wise Words: Turn the other cheek.

Day 56

READ
Matthew 5:40

Be Good in an Unfair World

You know, at times people don't play fair. Jesus wants us to know that the world doesn't play fair but God is always good. So we can also be good in this unfair world. That's what Jesus meant by "if someone sues you for your shirt, give up your coat as well." Jesus' life on earth shows us how to be good even though we live in an unfair world. You know that Jesus came to earth to die for us so we would be set free from our sins and the power of evil. Right. But when he came people said he was a bad person and called him names. Was Jesus angry with them? No. Jesus was even willing to die for all the people who called him bad names and wanted to have him killed. But he rose again from the dead and he lives forever. And one day, you will also live forever in a splendid kingdom as you continue to be good to people even though they don't play fair.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to show us how to be good in an unfair world?
2. So from today, how are you going to live even though others may not play fair?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God grant me power to be good to those who don't play fair, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Be good to people who don't play fair.

Day 57

Be Kind When Others Try Your Patience

READ
Matthew 5:41

Jesus wants us to be kind to people who push us around. Why?—because it helps us grow more patient and humble, and Jesus wants us to do it cheerfully. That's what Jesus meant by "if someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." If one of the students in your class drops a pencil and you pick it up, but then drops a whole pile of books later on, on purpose, what do you do? You should still try to pick them up, although the person may be trying to take advantage of you. It sounds very hard but the Holy Spirit living in us gives us power to be patient and humble. Your patience and humility along with your prayers may lead the person to Christ. Sometimes, you will be surprised people like that usually have lots of issues in their homes and may be even unsure of themselves because they think no one really cares about them. Your kind response to their meanness could change them. And you are being a *light* in the world. There are times you do have to report a bully to your teacher or a supervisor at work, and that is always the right thing to do.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Have there been times somebody tried to force you to do extra work for no good reason? What did you do? 2. What does Jesus teach us to do?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, give me patience and creative ways to handle those who'd like to take advantage of me, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Be patient with people who push you around.

Day 58

Give to Those Who Ask You

READ
Matthew 5:42

Jesus also expects us to give to those who ask us. Have you ever given to a friend who was in need? Perhaps he needed someone to play with. Or she was afraid and needed someone to go along. Or he forgot his lunch and you shared yours? Did you feel happy that you were able to help? Yes. Jesus expects us to give to those who wish to borrow stuff from us—maybe your books, phone, an iron, or food items because they can't afford them. Maybe they want to borrow some money, play in your yard, or stay and study together with you in your home because their families can't afford to pay their bills all the time—electricity, water, or gas for cooking. Grown-ups can also make time to give advice and assistance to members of their extended family, their friends' children, or even strangers who need help. When we give to those in need and share the things we have and cherish, we are actually learning to be like Jesus. Those receiving our kindness see the love of God in us and may decide to give their lives to Christ. And we become happy and blessed.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Jesus expects me to ___ to those who are in need and ask. 2. When I obey Jesus, what good things follow?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Holy Spirit, help me listen to your prompting to give to people in my family, extended family, friends, or strangers in need, in Jesus' name.

Today's Wise Words

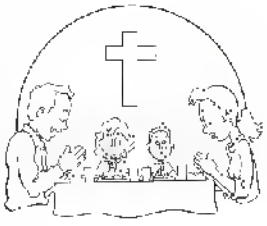
Share with those in need and you will be happy

Day 59

READ
Matthew 5:43-44

Love Your Enemies

There are four important things Jesus wants us to know in these verses. As Christians, Jesus expects us to *love our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to those that hate us, and pray for those who persecute us*. What does it mean to love your enemy? Jesus wants you to have mercy on them just as he had mercy on you and saved you from your sin. You must not wish something evil for that bully or mean person in your school or workplace. You must pray that he or she comes to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Jesus also wants us to be friendly and speak kind words to those who use lots of swear words and wish us evil. That way, we stop evil behavior from spreading. We must also learn to be kind to people who are continually mean to us. And you also know about children and teens and even some grown-ups who play all kinds of tricks and jokes on you because you are a Christian. Jesus says to pray for them. We can do all the above because the Holy Spirit lives in us and gives us power to love, bless, do good and pray even for our enemies. We also know that Jesus loves us no matter what. And we want to share Jesus' love with them.



Dig Out The Answers

1. List the four things that Jesus expects us to do?
2. Who gives us power to do these four things?
3. What happens to the world when we do these four things?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me power to love, bless, do good, and pray for those who treat me badly. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: With the Holy Spirit's help I will love, bless, be kind, and pray for my enemies.

Day 60

READ
Matthew 5:45-48

Be Perfect

Yesterday, we learned four important things Jesus expects of us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are to *love our enemies*, *bless those who curse us*, *do good to those who hate us*, and *pray for those who persecute us*. Jesus is saying that when we love, bless, do good, and pray for our enemies, we show the world that we are indeed the children of God. We are loving people just the way God loves. God loves both good and evil people because he provides rain to make plants grow to give all food. God also makes the sun rise every morning. You know, plants also need sunlight to grow. God doesn't say that because these people are bad, there's not going to be any sunlight for them today. No! Everybody in the world, good or bad, enjoys both sunlight and rain. The God we serve is good. Remember, the good things we do let the people of the world know that Jesus lives in us and can make us perfect. How wonderful!

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who makes us perfect?
2. Who gives us power to love those who hate us?
3. What does Jesus want us to do to be perfect?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you God that when Jesus lives in my heart and I let him control me, I can be perfect. Help me stay perfect by loving those who hate me, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.

Day 61

READ
Matthew 6:1-4

Give with a Good Heart

Jesus wants us to give to the poor, but he wants us to do this with a good heart. Jesus says hypocrites are people who give to the poor because they want to show off and announce to the world how good and great they are. Hypocrites want others to praise them for giving to the poor so they choose to give at places where everyone will take notice of them. It doesn't mean you should refuse to drop money to the poor person sitting by the roadside. No. Give to the poor because you have compassion on them, not because you want to show off or because you want others to praise you, or because it makes you feel good. So from today, set money aside, or your mildly used clothes, or household items you don't really need, and give them to the poor. You will need your parent's permission to donate some of your used clothes if you are a minor. Let's show the poor that God loves them deeply. We are the ones God uses because God provides the needs of people through other people.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do hypocrites do?
2. Why do we have to give to the poor?
3. What does God do for us when we give to the poor for the right reasons?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, help me give to the poor because I have compassion on them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Memorize Proverbs 19:17 (NLT): *"If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD--and he will repay you!"*

Today's Wise Words: Give to the poor.

Day 62

READ
Matthew 6:5-6

Pray In Secret

Jesus expects us to pray always. Prayer is talking and listening to God. Jesus wants us to pray because we love him and want to know him more. Jesus warns us not to pray like hypocrites. Hypocrites love to pray at places where people will take notice of them. Hypocrites pray because they want others to see how well they can pray. And people of course do take notice of them, and that is the reward they get. Wouldn't you rather have your prayers answered than wanting others to see how well you pray? We should not pray because we want to impress others. God will not answer such prayers. God will hear your prayer and reward you because you sincerely want to know him and live for him. You must learn to talk to God in prayer by yourself. The prayer is between you and God and it is not important for others to hear unless you want to show off. This is different from being called upon to pray at church or family devotions where you have to speak out for all to hear; or at prayer gatherings where everybody prays out softly. Let us all learn to speak honestly to God in prayer because we love him and want to live for him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How do hypocrites pray and why?
2. Does God hear the prayer of the hypocrite?
3. Why should you pray?
4. Where should you pray?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: I will pray because I love Jesus and want to live for him.

Day 63

READ
Matthew 6:7-8

Pray with Your Heart

Jesus teaches another important lesson about praying. Jesus does not want us making long prayers, thinking that God will hear because they are long. When we say prayers, which we know by rote, we may not pay attention to the words. We may just keep repeating them day after day. It's just like a baby babbling words that no one understands. Jesus wants us to pay attention to what we say to God in prayer because we need him and love to talk to him. Jesus also wants us to know that God doesn't answer our prayers because they are long. It's not how long or short your prayers are but whether you trust God to answer them. We must remember that God knows all that we are about to ask him in prayer before we do. God knows everything because he created everything. Remember that there may be times that you may need to talk to God for a long time because you are very sad or in trouble, which is okay. Sometimes, prayer is also praising God with songs or even with poems for something good he has done and this may sometimes take longer, but you must mean everything you are singing or saying. Be sure that you mean all that you tell God about your problem in every prayer.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why do some people make long prayers?
2. What does God know before we go to him in prayer?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to pray about my needs believing that you already know about them before I talk to you about them and you will answer. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Don't just *say* your prayers —*pray* them.

Day 64

READ
Matthew 6:9

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father

Jesus now teaches us how to pray. The Lord's Prayer is a message from us here on earth to God in heaven. The passage you read today tells you whom to talk to when you go to pray, and that person is God, *Our Father.* Jesus teaches us to pray only to God. We are never to pray to angels or saints or anyone else. We can call God *Our Father* because Jesus' blood washed away our sins when we asked him to come and live in our hearts. *Our Father* also means that God has many children—all those who have Jesus in their lives. And that means you and I belong to the family of God. The Lord's Prayer also tells us where God lives—God lives *in heaven.* That means God is above everything in the universe and rules over everything. And because of this you can be sure he is able to do all you ask him in prayer. *Hallowed be thy name* means we should make God's name holy. We make God's name holy by praising him for being perfect and pure. By praising him we are telling him that we are sure he'll answer us so others may see how truly great he is. We also make his name holy by obeying him everyday. So remember how great God is when you go to pray.

Dig Out The Answers

1. We are supposed to pray only to __, and not to __ or __ .
2. Where does God live?
3. How did God become your Father?
4. How do you make God's name Holy?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me know you are my father in heaven and you are holy. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: 'Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.' (KJV)

Day 65

The Lord's Prayer: Thy kingdom come

READ
Matthew 6:10

Now we know whom to call on when we go to pray, God, our Father. We also know God lives in heaven and we should make his name holy. Jesus now teaches us to pray, "Thy kingdom come." Do you remember what John the Baptist was preaching—"repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near"? Do you remember Jesus also preached the same thing? Jesus wants us to look forward to the day when He will return and rule as the King of Kings. That's why we need to tell our family and friends to give their lives to Jesus. Jesus wants us to remember that our true home is in heaven. *Thy will be done* means we are willing to let God lead us in everything we do because God is perfect and never makes mistakes. Heaven is a perfect place, full of rest and great happiness because only God's will is done there. When you as a child of God obey him, you bring a piece of heaven into the world. Jesus wants us to remember to ask these two things when we pray: "thy kingdom come," and "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Remember, God's *will* is what God *wants* or that which *pleases* God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why should you remember to ask God, "thy kingdom come" in your prayers?
2. Heaven is perfect because God's will is done there. How can you bring a piece of heaven to earth?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Lord God, help me look forward to Jesus' second coming and help me do your will. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it in heaven." (KJV)

Day 66

READ
Matthew 6:11

The Lord's Prayer: Give us our daily bread

The Lord's Prayer started with God our Father, who is holy. We also talked about how we should look forward to Jesus' coming back to rule on earth. We are also asked to pray that God's will be done on earth. We call these things *spiritual needs*. Spiritual needs are what we need to know about God, and what we need to do to stay happy as his children. Now the Lord's Prayer moves on to what our bodies need. These are *physical needs*. God knows we need food to live, so he wants us to ask him for that. Daily bread also means we can ask for other things we need in this life—clothing, friends, toys, books, knowledge, wisdom, houses, jobs etc. We are to remember not just to ask for ourselves but for others as well. That's why Jesus tells us to pray "give Us" and not "give Me." God doesn't want us to worry about tomorrow. That's why the verse says "give us *today* our daily bread" and not *tomorrow*. Remember that God loves you very much and wants to give you all that you ask for in prayer if is good for you and the timing is right.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why does the passage say "give Us" and not "give Me"?
2. What things make up *our daily bread* apart from food?
3. Does God want us to ask for the things we need?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Talk to God in prayer about your needs.
Memorize Philippians 4:19 (TLB): *"And it is he who will supply all your needs from his riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us."*

Today's Wise Words: "Give us today our daily bread." (KJV)

Day 67

The Lord's Prayer: Forgive us

READ
Matthew 6:12

Just as we ask God to give us the things we need daily, we must also ask him to forgive us daily. "Forgive us our debts,"—what does it mean? *Debt* is something you owe somebody. For example, if you borrow money from a friend, then you owe that friend. You have to pay that friend back the money you borrowed. In the same way we also owe God for breaking his laws, that is, for doing wrong things everyday. Our *sins* are our debts. But remember that Jesus paid our debts on the cross. The blood of Jesus washed you from all your sins when you asked Jesus into your heart. We are Christians but we still do wrong things sometimes. When we do, God tells us to ask Him for forgiveness. The *blood of Jesus washes us clean* every time we ask for forgiveness. When we ask for forgiveness, we are also telling God we need his Spirit to help us stop doing wrong things. And that's what happens. God gives us *power* to overcome that sin. Whenever we ask for forgiveness, the words of this prayer remind us to forgive those who wrong us. That's what is meant by "as we also forgive our debtors." Other Bible versions read *trespasses* instead of *debts*. They mean the same thing.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do we enjoy when we know our sins are forgiven?
2. What three things happen when we ask God for forgiveness?
3. Why do we have to forgive others?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to ask for forgiveness when I do wrong things. Also, help me forgive those who wrong me, because you keep forgiving me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

'Forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors.'

Day 68

READ
Matthew 6:13

The Lord's Prayer: Lead us not into temptation

Temptations are thoughts or feelings that lead us to do wrong things. Because we live in a sinful world, we will be tempted to do wrong things. But Jesus wants us to ask God to give us power not to do wrong things when we are tempted. For example, when you are tempted to tell a lie, remember the word of God (Ephesians 4:15) which encourages us to speak the truth to one another, and then you will not sin. Knowing the Word of God and using it is the surest way of getting out of temptation. The Bible tells us what God expects of us, and the Holy Spirit gives us power to obey. Jesus also tells us to pray that God will deliver us from evil. The devil is *the evil one*—he is behind all the evil in the world. We cannot overcome the devil by our own strength. So Jesus tells us to ask God not to allow the devil to strike or hurt us. Only God through Jesus can keep the devil away from harming us.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do you need to know so you'll overcome temptations?
2. Who gives you power to overcome temptations?
3. Who protects you from the evil one? If God already protects me from the evil one why do I have to ask? Read 1 Peter 5:8.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please help me out when I am tempted, and protect me from the devil in Jesus' name. Amen.

Memorize 1Corinthians 10:13 (NLT): "*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*"

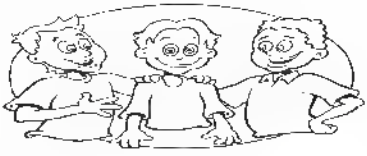
Today's Wise Words: God helps me out when I'm tempted. God protects me from the evil one.

Day 69

READ
Matthew 6:14-15

Forgive

Does it mean that if you don't forgive your sister, or brother, or friend for wrongs done to you, God will not forgive the wrong things you have done to others? Does it then mean that you will be thrown into the lake of fire? No. The day you asked Jesus to forgive all your sins and come into your heart, he did. Right. And he also forgave every sin you did in the past and even the ones you haven't done yet. Isn't that wonderful? But when we come to God in prayer to ask for forgiveness, we are bound to forgive those who have wronged us. That way we are being sincere and honest. When you find it hard to forgive, be honest to God and ask him for strength to help you forgive. God doesn't want us to come to him in anger. We remain angry with people we don't want to forgive. And we take the same angry attitude into prayer. Do you think you can have a good chat with a friend who is always angry? No. Prayer is a conversation with God. You will enjoy your time in prayer and receive answers if you learn to forgive those who wrong you. Those who forgive are those who know for certain that God has forgiven them so much and want to share this wonderful experience with others by forgiving them.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What can prevent your prayers from being answered? Read Matthew 18:21-35 for an answer.
2. What do you have to do to make you enjoy praying to God? 3. Those who forgive wrongs done to them know .....

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down names of people you need to forgive and ask God to help you truly forgive them.

Today's Wise Words: Forgive so that you'll be forgiven.

Day 70

READ
Matthew 6:16-18

Fasting—what it is!

Fasting means going without food till sunset. When fasting, people spend much time reading the Bible and praying. Jesus expects Christians to fast because it helps our faith grow stronger. Fasting helps us to develop self control so we just don't do anything we want without weighing it to see if it pleases the Lord. It also teaches us to patiently wait for answers to prayer from God. Be sure to ask your parents or guardians about the right age for you to learn how to fast. But just about any grown-up can fast. Fasting is as important and must be as regular as prayer. Jesus wants us to fast because we love him and want to know him better, not because we want to impress people. When we decide to fast, we must look cheerful, careful not to let others know what we are doing. It is between you and God. When we fast sincerely God answers our prayers (even if not always in the way we expected). People fast for various reasons; sometimes a dear one is sick and needs healing. Others fast because they need wisdom and strength. Some problems we face will go away only if we fast (Matthew 17:15-21). Would you like to fast one of these days—once a week, once a month, once every three months, once every six months or once a year.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is fasting? 2. How should we look when we fast? 3. What kind of fasting does God reward?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, when I am ready to fast, help me do it the right way, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God rewards those who fast in secret.

Day 71

READ
Matthew 6:19-21

Treasures in Heaven

Jesus wants us to use the things we cherish most to serve him. The things we cherish most are our treasures. Probably, it is your skill at solving math problems, or mending clothes or fixing gadgets. Whenever you use your skill to help someone else, you are serving Christ. Maybe it's your weekly allowance or savings. You may be proud of yourself because you save like Scrooge. But when you give part of your allowance to missions and charity you are serving Christ. Anytime you give up something you cherish to help the work of God on earth, you add to your treasures in heaven and growing to think more like Jesus. Treasures in heaven are safe because heaven is a perfect place. It is wise to use the things we cherish most to serve Christ here on earth. Keeping your treasures to yourself here on earth is a foolish thing to do. Everything in this world wears with time or rusts or gets stolen. So it's better to save up your treasures in heaven where they'll always be safe and never spoil. We usually think a lot about the things we cherish. In the same way you'll always think of heaven because your treasures are there. Jesus wants us to think of heaven, always. The more we think of our treasures in heaven, the more we look forward to Jesus' second coming, and the more we obey.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Name one thing you cherish a lot.
2. What does Jesus expect you to do with it?
3. How do you add to your treasures in heaven?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: God, I will use my treasures to serve you.

Today's Wise Words
"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

Day 72

READ
Matthew 6:22-23

Eyes Full of Light

Jesus is the light of the world—you remember that! Right. You also know your eyes help you see. Without your eyes you won't know what you look like, or what the world around you looks like. Jesus is saying that we need eyes that are filled with his light. Blind people need Seeing-Eye dogs to help them move around their neighborhoods so they can avoid traps and dangers. But Jesus is way better than a Seeing-Eye dog. He actually removes from your eyes what blinds you from seeing how awful sin is, and how real and evil the devil and his demons are. The light of Jesus in our eyes helps us see well so we can avoid the path that leads to death. When we have the light of Jesus in our eyes, we see, know, and do what is right with our bodies. Without the light of Christ, we live in darkness. All who have asked Jesus into their lives have the light of Jesus in their eyes. Thank Jesus for giving light to your eyes to see the love of God all around. Now you see!

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who gives light to your eyes?
2. What does the light of Jesus do for your eyes?
3. What do good eyes see?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Jesus gives light to my eyes so I will see my need for him to save me; now I have stepped away from the path of death and live in his light. Hallelujah!

Today's Wise Words: Your eye is the lamp of your body.

Day 73

READ
Matthew 6:24

You Can't Have Two Masters

Who is your master? A master is your boss, someone you have to obey at most times. The one you obey is your master. Jesus is saying in this passage that we cannot serve two masters. What Jesus means is this: you cannot obey God and obey the world at the same time. "Money" in this verse stands for the things of the world. What do you think about most of the time? How do you use the time you have? What are the things you cherish the most? Jesus wants us to fix our thoughts, and use our time and the things we have to serve God. If we are always thinking about money and how to get more, then money is our master. When we think about something a lot, it means that thing means a lot to us. In the same way when we think a lot about God and obey him, it means we love God a lot, and he is truly our only master. So from today make up your mind to think about Jesus a lot, spend time with Jesus a lot, and use the things you own to serve Jesus, too. That way you show that Jesus is truly your master.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How do you show that Jesus is your master?

2. How is Jesus different from other masters?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, please help me show that you are my only master because you saved me from sin, and you know everything, owns everything, and you never go wrong. I trust you. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is my only master.

Day 74

READ
Matthew 6:25-27

Don't Worry

Jesus doesn't want us to worry. Sometimes, we do worry about things we need. Jesus says not to worry. When we worry about the things we need—food, clothes, jobs, money—do you know what we are doing? We are fixing our thoughts on the world and refusing to trust God's promises. Worrying makes us sad, and takes away our faith in the power of God. When we worry, we are also telling God that he is not wise. But God, the *all-wise*, and owner of the whole universe, knows all things. God knows exactly when to give us what we need. He knows exactly what to give us. He also knows exactly how much to give us. That's why God tells us not to worry. As we learned earlier, we must fix our thoughts on God and not on the things in the world. Only God can provide all the things we need. Even old people who know a lot have to completely depend on the wisdom of God to guide them so they won't have to worry. And children, of course, can always ask their parents for the things they need. God gave us parents or guardians to take care of us. If they say they don't have what you want, then pray to God and accept whatever answer he gives. God is a good God and is always ready to give us the things that are best for us at the right time and in the right amount.

Dig Out The Answers

1. When we worry, what are we actually doing?
2. List some of the things that worry you and give them to God. 3. Why should we give our worries to God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

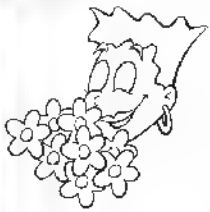
My Prayer: God, help me to trust you and not to worry about anything, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Don't worry.

Day 75

READ
Matthew 6:28-34

Seek First The Kingdom



Jesus wants us to look at the beautiful world around us when we are about to worry. God wants us to look at the birds of the air—or the beautiful wild flowers like lilies. He even wants us to look at the green grass. You'll see that all these are truly beautiful things God made. Jesus is saying that we are more important than all these beautiful things in the world. If we are more important than these things that God takes care of (flowers, birds, grass), then we can be sure that God will take care of us so we need not worry. What does Jesus want us to do? He wants us to use our best energies to serve God, living, and obeying him. And do you know what God promised? He will give us all the things we need. Some people do not want to use their best energies to serve God and so their needs are not provided in a way that is helpful to them and others. People don't pay much attention to how they live because they live like most people do; nothing extraordinary. But those God provides for, his Holy Spirit draws people's attention to how they live and they win people to Christ. God promises that if you use your very best energies to live for him and to serve him, he will surely provide you with all that you need. You can count on God! Even today. Trust in God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who are the most important things God created?
2. When you are about to worry, Jesus says to look at _____.
3. What did God promise to do for those who seek and serve him first?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer.

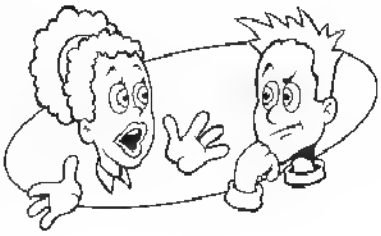
Today's Wise Words: Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Day 76

READ
Matthew 7:1-2

Stop Finding Fault

Jesus is telling us not to judge others. What does it mean to judge in this passage? Jesus is saying that we should not make a habit of finding fault with others. When we do that others will also find fault with us. God is the only one who judges all people because he is holy. Why shouldn't we judge others? Because we do not know the reasons why people do what they do. You can't go into people's minds and find the reasons. Only God knows what goes on in everyone's mind. Do you think it would be fun if others find fault with everything you do? I bet you'd be the saddest person on earth. Finding fault with others should not be a thing of habit with you because you also have many faults and yet Jesus loves you just the same. Instead of finding fault, pray for the person and God will open your eyes to see the beautiful parts of the person's character you never noticed before. And sometimes, God will give you wisdom to help the persons from getting stuck in their faults as you direct them to depend on the Holy Spirit's power. Faults are wrong things and attitudes we have. What are your faults? Talk to God about them.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What does it mean to judge others?
2. Who is the only true Judge? Why?
3. Instead of finding fault what should you do? Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me not to make a habit of finding fault with others. Rather, teach me to pray for them. Amen.

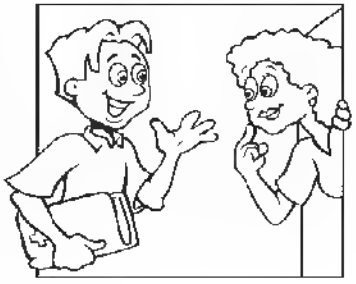
Today's Wise Words: Judge not and you will not be judged.

Day 77

READ
Matthew 7:3-5

Check Your Eyes Out

A *speck* is something very small like a little piece of sawdust. A *plank* is like a big log. Sometimes we are eager to point out the faults in our friends. But we forget to take notice of our own faults. That's what Jesus means by "speck in your brother's eye" and "plank in your own eye." Jesus is not saying that you shouldn't point out what your friend is doing wrong if it will help. But it is good to know your own faults and ask God to help you too. When you are willing to change your bad attitudes, your friend will be willing to listen to you when you point out his faults, too. Faults are bad attitudes, bad habits, and wrong actions. When we know our own faults, it helps us treat others gently who may have similar faults. We learn to be patient with one another and help each other change for good.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What do you need to do before pointing out a friend's fault?
2. When we know about our own faults it helps us ____.
3. What should we do about our faults?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please let me know my faults and help me change even as I help my friends out of their faults too, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Take out the plank in your own eye.

Day 78

READ
Matthew 7:6

Don't Throw Pearls to Pigs

Do you think if you gave a pig a very costly gold necklace, it'd be happy? No! A pig wouldn't notice the difference. Sometimes we may point out what a friend is doing wrong, but he may not listen. Why? He wasn't ready to listen yet. Or maybe, he was not in a good mood. Or yet still, you said it in front of other people, which made him angry. When we give advice to people who won't accept it; it is like *throwing pearls to pigs*.

Pray to God to help you know the right time to talk to somebody about something he is doing wrong. That way, the person will listen to you and you may not have wasted your time or destroyed your friendship. Sometimes, God doesn't want us to talk to people about their faults. He just wants us to pray for them. That's all. So make sure God leads you in everything you do especially in talking to others about their faults.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is it important to pray before you talk to a friend about his faults?

2. Why would a friend not listen to your advice about his or her faults?
3. Does God always want us to talk to our friends about what they do wrong?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please help me pray before advising a friend about his faults, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words
Do not throw your pearls to pigs.

Day 79

READ
Matthew 7:7-8

Ask, Seek, Knock

We have been talking about finding fault with people. We have learned that it is not always wise to talk to others about what they are doing wrong. Sometimes, we just have to pray for them. Jesus says in this passage that we need to a*sk* God in prayer how to live with others. We also have to *seek* God in prayer as the most cherished friend in the whole wide world. When we come to God in prayer, we must understand that we are coming into our Father's house and he will always open the door for us when we *knock*. Jesus wants us to understand that prayer is very important. Asking is praying. You a*sk* with your *voice*. You use *words* to express your prayer. Seeking is more praying where you *sincerely desire* the things you ask for in prayer. Knocking is much more praying when you obey by *using your own hands and efforts* to help bring about what God wants in your life. Jesus wants us to grow in prayer. Through prayer, God teaches us how to treat people we meet for the first time or those we know already. The more we *seek* God in prayer the more we know him. And the more we know him, the more we will continue to *knock* at the door of prayer. Why?—because we know that he will always open. God promised to answer and he always does.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Read verse 8. It is a promise. What does God promise there?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Holy Spirit, help me know the Father will always answer my prayers, especially how to treat people I live with, hang out with, and work with. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: "Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened."

Day 80

READ
Matthew 7:9-11

God Gives Good Gifts

Jesus wants you to know that God is your Father if you have him (Jesus) in your life. Just as you go to your parents when you need something, God wants you to come to him when you have a need. Do you think your parents would refuse to give you food to eat or water to drink if you ask? No, of course not. And that is right. Parents and guardians always try to give their children what they need. Jesus wants us to know that God's love (kindness and goodness) is much greater than our parents' or guardians. God knows much more about what we need than our parents do. Thank God, you have good parents, but God is even better. Thank God you have great relatives and friends, but God is far better and above them all. And that should make us always want to come to God in prayer when we have a need. God knows how to give good gifts better than anyone else in the world.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is God the best Father or Parent? 2. Because God is a better Father, we can go to him when we ___.
3. Who gives us good gifts?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: Father, you are the best parent I have, so you'll always provide for me, in Jesus name, Amen.

Memorize James 1:17 (GW): *"Every good present and every perfect gift comes from above, from the Father who made the sun, moon, and stars. The Father doesn't change like the shifting shadows produced by the sun and the moon."*

Today's Wise Words: Your Father in heaven gives good gifts to those who ask him.

Day 81

READ
Matthew 7:12

The Golden Rule

A couple of days ago, we learned that prayer is very important. Through prayer God teaches us how to treat others. When we pray, God makes us strong and bold so we can do what is right. We don't have that kind of strength in ourselves. In today's verse Jesus is telling us to treat others well, just the way we would like to be treated. Today's verse is known all over the world as *The Golden Rule.* It is something that we all find difficult to do. It is our nature to get even. It is our nature to pay back evil for evil and good for good. Our nature is a very bad nature. That is why Jesus encourages us to ask, seek, and knock in prayer. What do you need to know to help you treat people well? The word of God—the Bible. When we pray the Holy Spirit reminds us of what we have read in the Bible and makes us willing to treat others well. The Holy Spirit lives in all who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. Can you remember a time that the Holy Spirit helped you to show kindness to someone who was bad to you?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is today's verse called all over the world?
2. How are we supposed to treat other people?
3. Where do we learn to treat others well?
4. Who reminds us and gives us power to treat others nicely?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please help me treat others well, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Do to others what you would have them do to you.

Day 82

READ
Matthew 7:13-14

The Narrow Gate

Jesus wants us to understand that there are only two ways we can choose to go in this life. There is the way of sin or the way of holiness. The way of sin is the wrong way that leads to the lake of fire. The way of holiness, the good way, is the way to heaven. You can't be on both ways. You are either on the way to heaven or on the way to the lake of fire. All those who have asked Jesus to forgive their sins and accepted him as Lord and Savior are on their way to heaven. Are you on that way? Jesus is the *gate* that leads to heaven. Jesus is the narrow way that leads to heaven. Why is the gate small? The gate is small because it is hard to get in if you are proud and feel big. At Jesus' gate you must be willing to feel small by accepting that there's nothing good in you. You are full of sin and need the blood of Jesus to wash away your sin. Those who feel big cannot enter through the small gate because they feel they are so good and so smart they don't need God. The way is narrow, because on that way the Holy Spirit helps us do what is right and most of the time it is difficult for us because we are used to doing wrong things. But remember, sooner than you think, this narrow road opens up into an incredible world of fun and adventure. Don't miss it for anything in the world!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What are the two ways Jesus spoke of?
2. Why is the gate to life or heaven small?
3. What do you need to do to get onto the road that leads to life? Clues Romans 3:20-22
4. Why can't some people get into the small gate?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that I am on my way to heaven because Jesus lives in me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life.

Day 83

READ
Matthew 7:15-16

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing!

The prophets of the Old Testament were teachers of God's Word. God sometimes showed them future events before they occurred. The prophets in your church then are the teachers who help you understand God's word. This could be your pastor, your Sunday school teacher or your parents. Jesus in this passage tells us not to believe everybody who claims to be a teacher of God's Word. Why? Not everyone who teaches the Word of God is actually a Christian. Some people actually pretend to be Christians. They are false prophets, which means they are phony. Jesus describes them as *wolves in sheep's clothing*. Wolves attack and harm you, but sheep are gentle and calm. These phony teachers pretend to be calm and gentle as sheep, but inside they are harmful like wolves. You'll never suspect that they are phony because they appear to be good people. They mix with Christians to bring confusion, fights, quarrels, and even stop people from believing in God. You may be a young person and yet Jesus warns you to be careful and avoid phony teachers who claim to teach God's word. You may be older, even a senior, and to you also, Jesus extends the same warning—watch out for false teachers! They are not easy to identify in the church sometimes.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who are the prophets in your church? 2. How does Jesus describe phony/false teachers? 3. What does Jesus want us to do about phony/false teachers?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please deliver me from phony or false teachers who claim to teach your word. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Watch out for false prophets.

Day 84

READ
Matthew 7:17-18

Good Trees and Bad Trees

Today, Jesus is going to show you how to recognize a false teacher or prophet when you see one. He does this by using trees and the fruit they bear as an example. Every good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. You can tell a good tree from a bad tree just by looking at the fruits they bear. Good fruits are good works and bad fruits are evil or bad works. Sometimes a bad person may do a good deed, or drop a good truth or teaching. This does not mean that the bad person is bearing fruit. It is just like a bunch of grapes hanging over thorn bushes. Would you say that thorn bushes bear grapes? No! Watch how those who teach God's word live; how they talk, how they act toward others. Are they proud and full of themselves? Or are they bearing good fruit, that is, good works? Do they do what they teach? Those who have the Spirit of God living in them are sure to bear good fruit. Phony teachers will always bear bad fruit and you are sure to find them out even if takes a little more time!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is good fruit? What is bad fruit?
2. Can an evil person bear good fruit? Why?
3. How do you tell apart good teachers from phony ones?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me bear good fruit and help me watch out for phony teachers, in Jesus' name.

Today's Wise Words

Every good tree bears good fruit but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

Day 85

Good Fruit Comes from Good Trees

READ
Matthew 7:19-20

Jesus gives a warning to false teachers. If they don't have a change of heart and sincerely give their lives to Christ, God will cast them into the lake of fire. God is very hard on phony teachers who bring sorrow and suffering to his true children. And yet still, God wants such phony teachers to change because he loves them, too. That's why Jesus warns them of what will happen to them in future if they don't change. Jesus warns us not to have anything to do with phony teachers, but you can still pray for them to become true followers. This is also a warning to all of us. We must be sincere followers of Christ otherwise on judgment day, God will cast us into the lake of fire. Remember the earlier teaching: you cannot serve two masters. You are either for Jesus or against him. You can't be both, and if you are both, then you are a hypocrite and hypocrites will not make it to heaven. Follow Christ with all your heart. You know you are following Christ with all your heart when you learn to obey him and bear good fruit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What happens to phony teachers who refuse to change?
2. How can you know you are a sincere follower of Christ?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please help me follow Jesus Christ with all my heart by obeying him and bearing good fruit.

Today's Wise Words: Every tree that does not bear fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Day 86

READ
Matthew 7:21-23

Away with False Teachers!

Jesus wants us to follow God sincerely. God is very patient with his children when they are tempted and fail. When we confess, he forgives us and gives us power to overcome. But there are some who preach the Word of God, who seem able to tell what is going to happen before it does, and who perform miracles, yet they are not Christians. Sometimes, they bully Christians to follow their false teachings by speaking sweetly and smoothly. Did you ever read about king Saul? He prophesied but didn't obey God. Do you know that Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, also cast out demons when Jesus sent them out to preach the good news? And yet he didn't follow Jesus with all his heart. We can fool people but no one can fool God. Judas Iscariot couldn't fool Jesus. Jesus knew all about the wickedness in his heart. Don't just trust anybody who claims to perform miracles, prophesy or cast out demons in the name of Jesus. On judgment day, God will cast some people into hell because they never obeyed him even though they could talk about all the wonderful things they did in God's name. Those who love God sincerely obey the Bible daily and one day they'll enter heaven. God's will is what we read in the Bible.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who will enter the kingdom of heaven?
2. Who will be cast into the lake of fire?
3. Where do we find the will of God to obey?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please help me do your will at all times, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Those who do the will of God will enter heaven.

Day 87

READ
Matthew 7:24-25

The House on the Rock

Jesus is God so we believe that everything Jesus says is true. Because we believe him we act on what he says, and we obey him. Jesus calls those who hear his words and obey them "wise." Take a human example. If your mother asks you to get ice cream from the freezer for a snack, you'll surely rush out, open it, grab it and eat it. You went for the ice cream because you believed what your mother said, and so you obeyed. It is the same with following Jesus. When we believe the words of Jesus to be true, we obey them. Jesus compares the *life* of a wise man to a *house* built on a solid rock foundation. Every well-built house has a strong foundation and so should every good life, otherwise, it will fall into pieces when a storm hits. Jesus becomes the foundation of your life when you accept him as your Lord and Savior. Then you start building your life on Jesus who never fails. You build your life on Jesus by obeying what you read in the Bible. We form good habits and character when we obey Jesus. Sometimes though obeying Jesus can get us into trouble, but Jesus has promised to help us out. Others might not want to be your friend because you like to speak the truth. In that case, remember that Jesus is able to give you not just another friend but a very good one, too. So, trust and obey Jesus every day.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is the foundation for a good life?
2. How does Jesus become the foundation of your life?
3. What do you do to build your life on Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me build my life on Jesus by obeying your Word I read and hear every day. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

The wise man built his house upon the rock.

Day 88

READ
Matthew 7:26-27

The House on Sand

Jesus calls those who hear his words and refuse to obey "foolish." Jesus compares the *life* of the foolish person to a *house* built on *sand*. Sand does not make for a good foundation. It easily gives way in a storm or in strong winds. Likewise a life without Jesus will fall into pieces when there is trouble, because it doesn't have a good foundation. When Jesus is the foundation of your life, you can turn to him in time of trouble and he'll always help you out. Also, when Jesus appears for the second time, you are sure to go to heaven with him. I hope by now you have invited Jesus into your life as Lord and Savior, so he is the foundation of your life, and he will see you through all the troubles and challenges you'll face. The greatest storm in the world is yet to take place—the day of God's wrath—the day of judgement. There'll be no escape for those who refused to build their lives on Jesus—the solid Rock. What are your hopes built on: on sand or on solid rock, on what God says in the Bible or on what the people of the world say, who have no clue what will happen in the next minute?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus call those who do not obey his words?
2. What will happen to the life of the foolish when Jesus returns to earth to judge? 3. Who makes the best foundation for us to build our lives on? Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please help those who are foolish to come to know Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

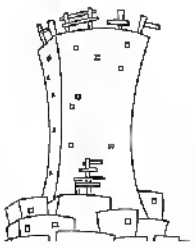
The house on sand fell with a great crash.

Day 89

READ
Matthew 7:28-29

The Crowds Are Amazed

We have come to the end of the *Sermon on the Mount*. The crowds who listened to Jesus were amazed. Jesus taught with power, unlike any teacher they had heard before. They did not know that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus is still teaching with power today. You may ask, how? He teaches us through the Holy Spirit who lives in us. Sometimes you may read something from the Bible and you may be amazed that you are able to understand it so well. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. At times, too, the Holy Spirit reminds you of a verse you had read in the past that could help build your faith when you are down, or make you happy or thankful when you are sad. No man in the world ever taught like Jesus. Always remember that. And it's only when you obey the words of this powerful Jesus that you also have power to live wisely. Obeying God's word is like building a fortress which will protect you from a storm when you needed it most. Yes, there are storms, times when bad things happen to all of us, because we live in a sinful world. And we must prepare for them as wise builders. Would you be a wise builder after hearing Jesus' powerful words.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Why were the crowds amazed?
2. Is Jesus still teaching us today? Who is doing that work in us?
3. How do you live wisely?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me obey you so I will be ready to wisely handle challenges that come my way. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus taught with authority (power).

Day 90

When Was Jesus Poor in Spirit?

READ
Matthew 3:13-15

(See Day 41)

Did Jesus live the Beatitudes and all he preached in the Sermon on the Mount? *Days 90 to 119 dwell on passages in the Bible, which show that Jesus practiced all that he taught in the 'Sermon on The Mount', which includes the 'Beatitudes.' He set a good example for all who choose to follow him. Let's join Jesus on this adventure.* Jesus showed he was "poor in spirit" by choosing to *identify with us* sinners when he came to John to baptize him. To *identify with us* means Jesus stood side by side with us sinners without looking down on us, although he never sinned and so wasn't really *poor in spirit*. For example, when you identify with your school, it means you cheer for your school, no matter what. Jesus, who was God, and never did any wrong thing, asked to be baptized because that's what the sinners he came to save had to do. He was willing to stand with us and champion our salvation. He only asked to be baptized as an example to all who'd choose to follow him. Those who see that they need God and turn to him must be baptized just like Jesus. Why do people get baptized? People get baptized to show that they are beginning a new life with God. Before they are baptized, they ask God to forgive their sins, and ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, and they star obeying the Holy Spirit. Jesus asked John to baptize him to show us sinners that we need to turn to God to save us so we can be part of God's kingdom. Jesus practiced what he preached.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to show he was poor in spirit?
2. Why did Jesus ask to be baptized if he never sinned?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you for showing me I need to be baptized to confirm that I have become a disciple of Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

I must be baptized when I accept Jesus into my heart.

Day 91

Jesus Looks for Comfort

(See Day 42)

READ
Mark
14:32-36

Did Jesus look to God for comfort because he was sorrowful? Yes. Jesus went to Gethsemane with three of his disciples to pray when he was about to be crucified. Jesus was very lonely and sorrowful. Jesus looked to God for comfort by praying. Jesus showed us whom to turn to when we are sorrowful or sad. We need to go to God, the Father, in prayer. God is able to make us strong and happy again. Sometimes you may feel sad because you did not do well in a class test, or you lost your pet, or a friend betrayed you, or you lost a dear grandma or grandpa. Even grown-ups have their sad days: loss of a friend through an accident, family quarrels, sick relatives, loss of a job, children acting up, and natural disasters, which make people homeless. List the things which are making you sad or unhappy. Jesus says to talk to God about them as he did and you will be comforted. How does God comfort us. Sometimes, he uses other Christians who visit us and speak encouraging words from the Bible to us. Also, the Holy Spirit reminds us of God's promises in the Bible, which gives us hope.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do when he was sorrowful?
2. How is knowing God's Word important to experiencing God's comfort? List some of God's promises in the Bible.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me talk to you in prayer when I am sad and filled with sorrow. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus talked to God when he was sad and so should I.

Day 92

An Angel Comes to Help Jesus

(See Day 42)

READ

Luke 22:39-43

Today's passage is the same story as yesterday's, only it goes a little further. It talks about what happens when we turn to God to comfort us. Jesus was in a garden on the Mount of Olives, praying. He went along with his disciples. Jesus was praying to God because he was very sorrowful. Jesus was sorrowful because he knew he was going to suffer and die on the cross, bearing the ugly weight of all our sins. He was willing but it was going to be so terrifying and he needed help. Now, you know why Jesus was sorrowful.

After Jesus' prayer, an angel from heaven came and strengthened him. How wonderful! It is good to talk to God when you are sad or terrified about a situation. He may send an angel to help you, though you may not even know it's an angel. But most important of all, God lets the Holy Spirit comfort us by helping us remember who God is—that we can trust him. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit may use a parent, a sibling, or a friend to say things to comfort you as we said yesterday. It's just that sometimes we are too stubborn to accept the comfort God brings our way. Would you accept God's comfort from people he brings your way? You never know, some could be real angels.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What happened when Jesus talked to God about his sorrow?
2. Who comforts us when we are sad and sorrowful?
3. The Holy Spirit may use ___ to comfort us, too.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me know you always send your Holy Spirit to comfort me when I am sad. Amen.

Today's Wise Words:

The Holy Spirit may use a sibling, parent, friend or even strangers to comfort me when I am sad.

Day 93

What Not to Do When Sad

(See Day 42)

READ
Luke 22:44-46

You do remember from yesterday's story that God sent an angel to help Jesus as he prayed! Jesus now had strength and he continued to pray more and more. He prayed with all his heart so much that he was sweating heavily. Remember, Jesus had brought the disciples to pray along with him? But, when Jesus went over to them, he found them all asleep. They were asleep because they were tired and very, very sad. What do you think they should have been doing when they were sad? They should have been praying to God, just like Jesus. When Jesus prayed, an angel was sent to help him. The disciples gave up praying, so they became weak and only slept. Instead of sleeping or talking to friends about your sadness, why not talk to God first? God will make you strong so your sadness does not make you weak or sick. When you are sad for a long time you can fall sick. It is called depression. Jesus avoided depression by talking to God and accepting his help. And God made Jesus strong to die for us. God also makes us strong so instead of being sad and weak, we can be bold in helping others. Thank Jesus that he did not sleep when he was very sorrowful but prayed to God and was given strength to die for our sins. Jesus blessed us by dying on the cross to save us. How are you going to bless somebody today?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did the disciples do the right thing by sleeping when sad?
2. Who made Jesus strong so he could die for our sins?
4. Why does God make us strong after healing us of sadness?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank Jesus that he was given strength to die for us on the cross.

Today's Wise Words: God makes me strong to bless others.

Day 94

READ

John 13:1-5

When Was Jesus Lowly and Patient, Hoping in God?

(See Day 43)

Jesus was celebrating the Passover feast with his disciples for the last time. Jesus knew that, but his disciples didn't know it was the last Passover feast they'd ever celebrate with Jesus. Jesus, the Teacher, got up, wrapped a towel around his waist and began washing his disciples' feet. Even though Jesus was the boss of the disciples, he didn't feel big in his shoes. That was a very humble thing Jesus did. He did this because he had hope in God, as he looked forward to his suffering and death, knowing that God would raise him back from the dead. He also had hope in God that the disciples would learn a great lesson from it and that would help them spread the Good News when he ascended to heaven. Do you have hope in God? Then start serving others who don't look like you, from important or less important families, from a rich or a poor community or country. The Holy Spirit living in us gives us power to serve others with a humble attitude. Serving others shows that you hope in God and patiently looking forward to overcome every problem that may come your way.

Dig Out The Answer

1. What did Jesus do in the story to show he was humble?
2. Today, how are you going to serve somebody you do not think much of?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, teach me to be humble like Jesus so my hope in you will grow. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus was humble while here on earth.

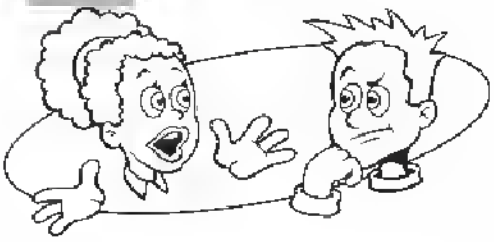
Day 95

Jesus Was Humble

(See Day 43)

READ
John
13:12-17

We are continuing the story from yesterday. When Jesus finished washing the disciples' feet, he asked them whether they understood what he just did for them. Jesus explained that even though he was their boss, he was willing to humble himself and wash their dirty feet. Jesus expected them to wash each other's dirty feet, too. Apart from helping the poor and needy, there is another thing we do to wash each other's feet. When a friend wrongs you, it is good to go to the friend and talk it over. When you go to other friends and say bad things about that friend, it means you are not washing your friend's dirty feet, you are rather making it more dirty. When we talk behind other's backs, we are not washing their dirty feet. We wash each other's feet by being kind and forgiving. Do you forgive your friends? Do you say bad things behind their backs?



Dig Out The Answer

What would you do for friends to show you are washing their feet?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray to God to help you wash other people's feet.

Today's Wise Words

I can wash my friends' feet by talking things over.

Day 96

Jesus Doesn't Want to Be King Yet (See Day 43)

READ
John 6:14-15

Today's story shows us that Jesus practiced being humble. After Jesus fed the five thousand men, plus women and children, they got very excited. If Jesus could feed this many people with five loaves of bread and two fish, the crowd figured he must be the prophet that was to come. The crowd wanted to make Jesus king. Jesus knew what they wanted to do, so he escaped to the mountain. Jesus didn't want to be king, the kind the Jews were looking for, and boss over people. That's not why he came to earth. Jesus came to earth to die for our sins so we could be God's friends again and use the Bible to live wisely here on earth, and one day, live with him in heaven forever. We must follow the example of Jesus and be humble. To be humble also means to work with God in his timing not ours to receive the power we need to accomplish certain great things at certain stages in our lives. Sometimes, we so much want to get a certain position at school or at work, we do not pay attention to what the Holy Spirit wants us to do. We move ahead of God and then we start experiencing lots of challenges and even mess up a lot of relationships and friendships. Jesus knew that his time to be king and rule the earth completely had not yet arrived and he needed to work with God's timing. Jesus also knew that he was already king and people do not have true power to make him king, only God the Father. Once, you also realize that all along you are a true royal and celebrity, you will stop looking to people to make you important by fighting for positions at school or at work.

Dig Out the Answers

1. What does God say you are before you start experiencing some of its benefits in real life? Clue: 1 Peter 2:9

In Your Own Words: Pray using the lessons learned today.

Today's Wise Words

Humble people work with God's perfect timing.

Day 97

Jesus Rides on a Donkey

(See Day 43)

READ
Matthew 21:1-10

Jesus was entering Jerusalem as we read from today's story. Jesus had told his disciples to go into a village and untie a donkey and her colt for him to ride on. The disciples found them exactly as Jesus had said. Jesus rode on the donkey as the crowd shouted "Hosanna" to him. Jesus, who owns everything, sat only on a donkey. Jesus was with his Father in heaven before he came to earth to be born as a baby. Jesus was king of everything before he came to earth, and he continues to reign as king from heaven today. But Jesus came to earth to die to save us from our sins not to reign as king. Jesus' kingdom is much greater and more glorious than the kingdoms of this earth. Jesus owns this earth and all of its kingdoms. And yet, he did not enter Jerusalem with army tanks or military aircraft (chariots) with large armies or even with angels to show off. Because Jesus lived a humble life on earth, God rewarded him by giving him a name above all names, so everything in all God's universe has to obey him (Philippians 2:5-11). Christians who understand how important they are to God do not impress others by what they own or drive. Rather, they focus on finding opportunities to bring people to God using humble ways that God approves, as Jesus did. Jesus is coming back to earth one day. And all those who live humble lives will rule the world with him. Cool or what?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus ride on a donkey? 2. Find out today a humble way God will show you to bring others to him.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned and pray it.

Today's Wise Words

God uses humble ways to bring people to know Jesus.

Day 98

READ
Luke 4:42-44

Jesus Thirsts For Holiness (See Day 44)

When did Jesus hunger and thirst for holiness, loving others when It was difficult?

Jesus obeyed God at all times. Jesus did what was right even when it was difficult. He did the right thing in today's story. Jesus left to go to a place all by himself after healing so many people. But the crowd wouldn't leave him alone. They went looking for him and they found him. They wanted Jesus to stay in their town a little longer, but Jesus did not listen to them. Jesus told them he had to go to other places to share the Good News of God's love, too. Jesus could have been comfortable staying on in Capernaum preaching and healing but that would not have been God's will. Are you comfortable the way you are serving God? If you are, you must pray for courage to want to be willing to be uncomfortable reaching out to people you may not be comfortable sharing the Good News with. We must not keep to ourselves, our family, close friends, town, city or country the Good News of God's kingdom: the joy of being forgiven, experiencing Jesus' words of comfort in everything we do, as well as miracles of healing. Jesus did not listen to people; he listened to his Father and obeyed him. To hunger and thirst after righteousness means obeying God especially when it is not comfortable or convenient.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to show he obeyed God rather than people?
2. Instead of being comfortable in serving God where we are, we must ask for ___ to share the Good News with ___.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray for courage to share the Good News.

Today's Wise Words: Be prepared to share the Good News even when you are not comfortable.

Day 99

Jesus Loved Others When It Was Difficult (See Day 44)

READ
Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus hungered and thirsted after righteousness all the time he was on earth. Everywhere Jesus went large crowds followed him. Imagine how hard Jesus had to work. Jesus would preach the Good News to the people. Afterwards, he'd heal all the sick people brought as well. Can you imagine the long lines? Everybody wanted Jesus to touch the sick people they brought. Jesus healed all kinds of diseases. Jesus drove evil spirits out of people. At the end of the day, Jesus was a tired man, but he never complained. Jesus was happy he was doing what God wanted him to do and he was able to do all that through the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians who are always thirty and hungry for righteousness are the ones who ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit all the time and are given power to do things for God that naturally they could not have, just as Jesus did. Sometimes, you may also have to do lots of work to help others come to know Jesus. You may help clean up the grounds for a crusade, or serve in the kitchen, or pray and fast with others. You may have to invite people to stay over in your home or just for a lunch or supper. To do all this, you need to depend on the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit so you won't complain.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Make a list of the work Jesus did in today's story.
2. Did Jesus ever complain that he was so tired he couldn't obey his Father anymore? Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you obey at all times without complaining.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus worked very hard without complaining.

Day 100

Jesus Loved to the End

(See Day 44)

READ

Luke 9:51-53

Jesus knew it. It was getting closer to the time of his death and resurrection. He had always known this would happen, because that's why he came to earth. Jesus knew that if he went to Jerusalem, the Pharisees and the Jews would treat him badly and kill him after. But he was willing to go to Jerusalem to die. Jesus was more interested in obeying God. He thirsted after righteousness. Do you know that sometimes we will also suffer when we decide to do what God wants us to do? There are many Christians in many countries suffering because they obey God. They are beaten, their houses are destroyed, their children are taken as slaves, and some are put in prison. But these Christians do not stop obeying God because they know that their suffering will bring others to know Jesus and a better place awaits them in heaven. Jesus knew that his death would save many people so he obeyed God to the very end. When you also obey God, others may come to know Jesus because of that. God the Father, whom Jesus depended on helped him to be faithful to the very end. If you also depend on God, he will help you stay faithful to Jesus in everything to the very end.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What would happen to Jesus if he went to Jerusalem?
2. Even though Jesus knew he'd be treated badly in Jerusalem, he still went. Why? What do you learn from this?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer.

Memorize Philippians 1:6 (NLT): *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."*

Today's Wise Words

Jesus always made up his mind to obey the Father.

Day 101

Jesus Teaches Lovingly

(See Day 44)

READ
Mark
1:35-39

Early in the morning people were already looking for Jesus. Do you look forward to speaking with Jesus first thing in the morning? They needed Jesus in those days and people still need Jesus today. Did Jesus say, "I can't help the people today?" No. Jesus rather went around the villages and preached the Good News to the people. Jesus traveled around a lot, preaching, and driving out evil spirits from people. Do you know that Jesus also preached in churches? The churches were called synagogues. Jesus showed us by his life how important it is to obey God. Just imagine: if Jesus had not obeyed the Father, all the sick people in those days would not have been cured. Nobody would have heard the Good News that God loves everyone and wants to save one and all. Because Jesus obeyed, today many people are blessed. When you obey God, you are blessed and so are others around you. How are you going to love someone today? Would you pray today for someone to get healed? Would you pray for wisdom for someone who needs it. Would you pray for those suffering from addiction to alcohol, drugs, and violence?

Dig Out The Answer
How did Jesus obey in today's story?
In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: To obey is better than empty religious dos and don'ts (1Samuel 15:22).

Day 102

Jesus Responds to a Need

(See Day 45)

READ
Mark 6:34

Did Jesus show mercy? That's what we are about to find out in today's verse. Showing mercy also means not waiting for the person to ask for your help before giving it. Jesus saw the crowds and he had mercy on them. Jesus realized they *needed* someone to teach them about the love of God and the ways of God. They were hungry to know more about God. Jesus began to teach them about God. God has opened the eyes of every Christian to see the need of people for Jesus. God uses various ways to help us see their need. It could be that somebody needs an answer to a question in class or your workplace: answer it, instead of bluffing and this could open a door for someone to listen to the Good News. It could be that a relative or friend is in need and your meeting that need could make them willing to hear the Good News. When we remember how God has showed us mercy by forgiving all of our sins and providing for things we have not even asked for (e.g. air, seasons, family), it should encourage us to show mercy to others, too, Jesus showed mercy. People who are merciful offer help before they are even asked. Today, God is opening your eyes to see the needs of some specific people for you to meet. Be on the look out!

Dig Out The Answer

1. What did Jesus do for the crowds to show that he was merciful?
2. What are you going to be looking out for today?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me show mercy to others by offering them help before I am asked, in Jesus' name.

Today's Wise Words: Showing mercy also means not waiting for the person to ask for your help before giving it.

Day 103

Jesus Feeds the Hungry

(See Day 45)

READ
Mark 8:1-3

Again, Jesus had compassion on the crowd. The crowd had been with Jesus for three days. The crowd loved to listen to Jesus teach. Jesus knew they were hungry. If they had food, probably, it was all gone by the third day. Jesus also knew they had traveled long distances to come and listen to him. Some might collapse on the way if they were sent away hungry. You see how thoughtful Jesus was! Jesus showed mercy. What do you do when a friend comes to play over at your house for long hours? Would you think of giving him lunch or supper? That would be the right thing to do. What do you do when you figure out somebody you work with can't afford lunch? What if he or she isn't a nice person? What if it is the very person trying to make life miserable for you at your workplace or school. Would you be merciful? Have you noticed that people who easily share their food also quickly learn to share many other things they own as well. This is how we learn to share the Good News of God's mercy, too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do you think Jesus was going to do for the hungry crowd?
2. Are you a thoughtful person? Write some things you intend to do today to show your thoughtfulness.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus was mindful of others.

Day 104

Jesus Forgives

(See Day 45)

READ

Luke 23:32-34

Jesus was going to be crucified. Was Jesus angry with the Jews who handed him over to be crucified? No. Jesus did not rain down curses on them, even though they had treated him badly. Instead, Jesus asked the Father to forgive them. When people treat us badly, we show mercy by forgiving them. What about that kid ragging on you yesterday, but today asks to ride your bike, or borrow your skates? What about that unfriendly co-worker whose car is stalled in traffic because the car has broken down? Would you keep driving or would you stop and offer him or her a ride? Jesus said to be merciful. We should not pay back others for the wrong things they do to us. It's not that easy but the Holy Spirit lives in us to give us power to be kind even when it's hard. Jesus had mercy on those who showed him no mercy. He asked God to forgive them. Jesus practised what he preached.

Dig Out The Answer

1. What did Jesus do in today's story to show that he was merciful?
2. How are you going to show mercy today to people who have been unkind to you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear Lord, when I suffer any kind of pain or embarrassment because of wrong things others do or did, Holy Spirit help me not to curse them or insult them. Rather, give me grace to pray for them and forgive them as Jesus did. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

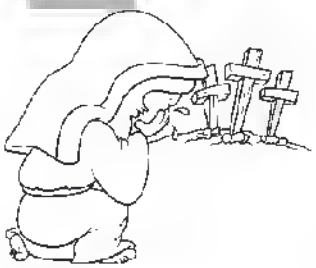
You are merciful when you forgive.

Day 105

Jesus Shows Mercy to a Criminal (See Day 45)

READ
Luke 23:39-43

Remember the two criminals crucified along with Jesus? One of them insulted Jesus, saying very bad things to him. He made fun of Jesus, just like the soldiers who nailed him to the cross. But the other thief was different. He knew he was being crucified because he'd done very bad things. He wanted forgiveness for the bad things he'd done. This second thief realized that Jesus hadn't done anything bad for him to be crucified. He realized that Jesus was a king, indeed. He asked Jesus to forgive him. Jesus promised the thief that he was going to be with him in heaven. Even when Jesus hung on the cross dying, he was still showing mercy, forgiving the thief. It is never too late for God to save those who turn to him. Jesus is very merciful and able to save us. It doesn't matter how wrong things have gone in your life or how wrong you are in so many ways, Jesus is always willing to forgive you if you ask him. Have some things gone quite wrong in your family? Talk to God about them. If not, talk to God about others whose lives have gone wrong.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What went wrong in the criminal's life?
2. What can Jesus do about the things that have gone wrong in your life, or your family, or workplace, or among your friends?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

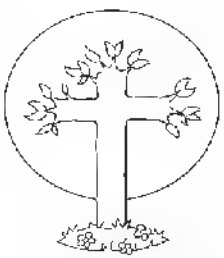
Today's Wise Words
Jesus showed mercy by forgiving the criminal his sins.

Day 106

The Pure in Heart Point Others to Jesus (See Day 46)

READ
Mark 10:17-18

A pure heart is a heart without sin. Jesus never sinned even though he once lived here on earth. A pure heart sees God and loves God. In today's story, a certain man came to see Jesus. He wanted to know what he could do to get eternal life. He called Jesus, "Good Teacher." Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good?" Jesus added, "only God is good." (Of course, Jesus himself is God!) Jesus already knew the thinking of the young man. The young man thought that anyone who did enough good things could make it to heaven. Jesus points out to him and to all of us that no one is good enough to make it to heaven. Only God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is good. Jesus pointed the man to God. When you have a pure heart, you point people to God. You tell them that only the blood of Jesus can cleanse them and make them good. Because Jesus had a pure heart he always told people to look to God to save them. Jesus has also given you a pure heart. He wants you to tell others that he alone can save them from their sins. Their good deeds cannot save them.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Can your good works take you to heaven?
2. Jesus pointed the young man to _____.
3. You must point others to _____ because he alone can save them from their sins.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me point others to Jesus as the one who alone can save them from their sins, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: A pure heart points others to Jesus as their Savior from sin and the way to heaven.

Day 107

The Pure in Heart Work Hard

(See Day 46)

READ
Luke 21:37-38

What did Jesus do in today's passage to show that he had a pure heart? Jesus worked very hard on the work God gave him. What did Jesus do during the day? He taught in the Temple. People came every morning to listen to him. Is there a particular work you do everyday? When we put our very best effort in doing what God has called us to do daily, we see how great God is. What has God called you to do? To go to school, to work to feed your family, to learn a trade so you can get a good job? Whatever you are doing now is something God wants to use to make his name great in your life and so you have to do it very well. The greatest thing that could happen to anyone is to come to know God through Jesus. God uses how Christians work hard and diligently to make others aware that Jesus lives in us. When others see how committed we are to God and how we do everything joyfully, they may also want to come to Jesus. Be diligent with your chores and others will see your pure heart and turn to Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What happens if you are diligent in everything you do?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you work as hard as you can at anything you do, small or big.

Memorize Colossians 3:23 (NIV): "*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*"

Today's Wise Words: Jesus had a pure heart so he worked very hard. Strive for excellence in all you do.

Day 108

The Pure in Heart Talk to God

(See Day 46)

READ

Luke 21:37

We are reading the same verse we read yesterday. Yesterday, we learned that because Jesus had a pure heart, he worked very hard on the work his Father gave him. A pure heart seeks to please God at all times. Everyday, Jesus taught at the Temple. And every evening, he went up the Mount of Olives. What do you think he went up that hill to do? Jesus talked to God about how the day went. He also thanked God for all that he'd helped him do throughout the day.

A pure heart always seeks to talk to God. Because Jesus had a pure heart he always talked to God, each day after work. Jesus has made your heart pure too. It is good to talk to him after school or after work everyday. Jesus would love to hear from you all that happened at school or at work. We must seek to make God our friend by telling him all that is on our minds. The more we talk to God the more we know him. The more we know him, the more we see the good things he's doing in our lives and others. God cares.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Jesus had a pure heart, so he always _____ to the Father up on the hill.
2. What could you do after school or work each day to show you have a pure heart?
3. How do you continue to make God your friend?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, I thank you for giving me a pure heart because I have Jesus. Help me tell you all that's on my mind, because you are a good listener, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Memorize 1Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT): *"Never stop praying."*

Today's Wise Words: A pure heart often talks to God.

Day 109

READ

John 12:27-30

The Pure in Heart Bring Glory to God (See Day 46)

Jesus was praying. What did he say in his prayer to show he had a pure heart? Jesus asked the Father to glorify his name. What does *glorify your name* mean? Jesus wanted only what God wanted. What did God want? God wanted Jesus to die to save us from our sins. Jesus talked to God to help him go through the suffering of dying on the cross. Jesus was about to be arrested and killed. He asked God for help. When we want only what God wants, we bring glory to his name. We make God famous when we do what he wants. We make others respect and honor God when we do what he wants. God answered Jesus from heaven by a thunderous voice. God told Jesus he would glorify his name. How did God glorify his name? God helped Jesus when he was beaten and crucified, but most importantly, he raised Jesus back to life. God brought glory to his own name when he brought Jesus back to life. God gave us hope when he brought Jesus back to life. Now we know that even if we die, we shall rise again. When you have a pure heart you only do what God wants. God also honors you by helping you see how powerful he is, just as he talked to Jesus from heaven. Expect God to do something powerful and great in your life as you continue to do what he wants.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus say in the prayer to show that he had a pure heart? 2. What do we do to bring glory to God's name?
3. How does God honor those who bring glory to his name?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you bring glory to his name.

Today's Wise Words

A pure heart brings glory to God's name.

Day 110

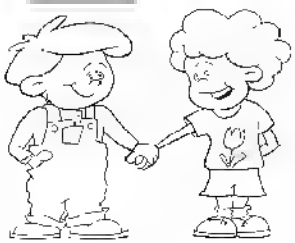
Jesus Makes Peace

(See Day 47)

READ

Luke 22:47-51

When did Jesus make peace? Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, betrayed him. Judas Iscariot kissed Jesus so the Temple guard would know whom to arrest. They were about to arrest Jesus, take him away and kill him. Jesus' disciples wanted to fight back. They didn't want their master taken away and killed. One of Jesus' disciples, struck the ear of the high priest's servant. How did Jesus make peace in today's story? Jesus told his disciples not to fight back. Jesus touched the servant's ear and healed him. Jesus did a good thing to a person who was about to arrest him. Do you think the servant ever forgot the kindness Jesus showed him? Probably Marcus, the servant whose ear Jesus healed, became a follower of Jesus later. When we are kind to those who dislike us, we are making peace. Who knows? Our good deeds may bring them to Christ one day. Is there somebody in your life you have to make peace with? Talk to God about it and he will give you wisdom and strength to do it. Sometimes, it only involves a smile back or just a hearty hello.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What was the kind thing Jesus did in today's story to make peace?
2. Write down some things you'll do to make peace today.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you make peace with people who plan evil against you.

Today's Wise Words: Being kind to a person who dislikes you means you are being a peacemaker.

Day 111

Jesus Is Called the Son of God

(See Day 47)

READ
Mark 15:37-39

When the centurion or the army officer saw how Jesus died, he said that Jesus was truly the Son of God. He heard Jesus say, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." The centurion did not hear Jesus cursing his enemies. He and those around could sense that Jesus truly had a very special relationship with God, the Father. Do you know people can tell by how you live or even die that you are a follower of Jesus, too? What kind of language do you use when you are in pain and suffering? Would you follow Jesus' example in today's story and talk to God about your pain because you are truly close to him and he is your true father? Did somebody ever tell you he thinks you are a Christian because of the way you behaved in a time of stress, frustration, pain or loss. Have you also looked at someone's life and thought, this person must be a Christian? Jesus was called the Son of God because he brought peace between us and God. Let's continue to make peace so others will see we are truly children of God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to bring peace between God and us?
2. What do you do to bring peace to others?
3. Who are called sons (children) of God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God that Jesus' death brought peace between God and us, and has made all those who believe in him peacemakers.

Memorize Ephesians 1:7 (NLT): "*He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*"

Today's Wise Words: I want others to look at my life and tell me, "You are a Christian!"

Day 112

When Was Jesus Persecuted for Doing Good? (See Day 48)

READ
Luke 19:47-48

Was Jesus persecuted for doing good? Yes. As we read in today's passage, the chief priests and the teachers of the law wanted to kill Jesus. They realized that people not only listened to Jesus' words but also believed them. Jesus was persecuted for teaching about God's love. Jesus knows that all who follow him will be persecuted. Many Christians are treated badly in so many countries for believing in Jesus. They can't get good jobs; their children can't get into good schools; they are beaten and thrown into prison if they talk about Jesus. You must pray for them. Ask God to make them strong, so they will continue to trust and follow Jesus. Jesus has promised to help us stand firm and continue trusting him because he knows what it feels like to be persecuted. Sometimes, people will make fun of you, tell on you, make life difficult for you at school, work, or even in your own home for following Jesus. Yet remember to be kind to all, because that might bring them to know Jesus, too. Do you know that after Jesus ascended to heaven many of the priests in Jesus' time became his followers (Acts 6:7)?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Are Christians being persecuted in the world today?
2. When you are treated badly what should you do?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, let me trust Jesus and follow him even when I am treated badly, Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus was persecuted—we will be persecuted too.

Day 113

Jesus' Townsfolk Are Jealous of Him (See Day 48)

READ
Mark 6:1-3

Did people say all kinds of evil things about Jesus? Yes, just as you read from today's story. Jesus went back to the very town that he grew up in. He went to the synagogue, the place of worship, as he used to. He read and preached from the Word of God. The people were amazed at his teaching. But some became jealous. They huffed and puffed. They couldn't figure how the boy they grew up with could have become this wise. Jesus makes us wise when we obey him. Sometimes others become jealous because we are becoming wise and good. But this should not make us sad. We should thank God because if we are at all wise or good we owe it all to him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do you do when others say evil things about you because you do the right thing?
2. What does God make us when we obey His Word?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please make me wise and good as I strive to obey your Word. Teach me to be strong when others say evil things against me—help me always to be wise and good, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Others may not always be happy I am growing in wisdom.

Day 114

Jesus' Brothers Tease Him

(See Day 48)

READ

John 7:1-9

Was Jesus persecuted again and again? Yes. Jesus had to stay away from Judea. He wanted to avoid the Jews who were planning to kill him. When someone is planning to hurt you, avoid the person. Jesus avoided going to Judea because they wanted to harm him, but most importantly he knew this was not a place God wanted him to be. You should not go to places God does not approve. Sometimes, we get hurt because we disobey God and go and hang out with people and in places God does not approve.

Jesus also knew that the timing was wrong. The time for his death had not yet arrived and he should not hasten it. Be careful to work with God on his own time for the things you want him to do in your life and you will avoid unnecessary pain and confusion. Jesus knew he had to finish his work of teaching and healing. He wasn't yet done. Even Jesus' own brothers did not believe he was the Messiah. They gave Jesus such bad advice. They told Jesus to go show off his miracles in Judea so he could become popular. Sometimes people say things to us they know will get us in trouble. We must not listen to those who don't believe in Jesus nor should we take advice from them. They only intend to tease us when we get hurt. Jesus did not take his brothers' advice. He knew they were up to no good.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus' brothers do?
2. List the reasons Jesus avoided going to Judea?
3. What do you learn from Jesus' decision?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Word: Even Jesus was teased.

Day 115

Jesus Escapes Threat

(See Day 48)

READ
John
8:58-59

Jesus was having a chat with the Jews. Jesus told them he was there before Abraham. Abraham was the ancestor of the Jews. He'd been dead many hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The Jews could not believe what Jesus was saying: what did he mean by he was there before Abraham? Abraham lived way before Jesus, but Jesus has always been. Jesus was with God the Father in heaven before he came to earth. The Jews did not understand that Jesus was the promised Messiah and the Son of God. They couldn't understand that he was there before Abraham was even born, because Jesus has always been one with God. They became very angry and picked up stones to stone him. But Jesus hid himself and escaped. When someone wants to hurt you, don't just stand there—escape. That's what Jesus did. Jesus knows that people will try to hurt us because we believe in him. We believe that Jesus is God. It is good to slip away from people who intend to hurt you when you get the opportunity. And yet, God has called some Christians to go to certain people and places to preach the gospel where they are sure to be treated very badly, but they are working with God, on his time, and he will take care of them. And sometimes, God can give you also such an assignment, but be not afraid.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus say he was there before Abraham?
2. Jesus came from heaven and Jesus is ____ with God.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Father, I will continue to believe that Jesus is God even though others may not like it. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

You will be persecuted for believing Jesus is God.

Day 116

When Did Jesus Pray?

(See Day 63)

READ
Luke
3:21-22

Jesus practiced what he preached. That's what we have been discussing for the past several days. Jesus wants his followers to follow his example too. What did Jesus do when he was being baptized? He prayed. Have you been baptized yet? If you have, that's a good thing. Jesus commands all who come to believe in him and truly mean it to be baptized in water to show that they have rejected their life of sin and have entered into a new life of holiness through Jesus, who died for their sins and rose again to give them hope of eternal life (Matthew 28:19). Those of you who are yet to be baptized should remember to pray as you are being baptized. A wonderful thing happened as Jesus prayed—the Holy Spirit descended on him. Do you know every time we pray the Holy Spirit comes to strengthen us? That's why it's very important to pray often. The more we pray, the more we get strength and power to obey God. The Holy Spirit helped Jesus to do all the work the Father wanted him to. In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps you do God's work every day as you pray. So pray often, like Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What happened as Jesus prayed?
2. What happens every time we pray?
3. Why does the Holy Spirit give us strength every time we pray?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me pray often, in Jesus' name.

Today's Wise Words

The Holy Spirit descended as Jesus prayed at his baptism.

Day 117

Jesus Prays First Thing in The Morning (See Day 63)

READ
Mark 1:35

Jesus used to get up early in the morning to go talk to God in prayer. He went to a quiet place where he could be alone. Jesus teaches us a very important lesson here. The first thing Jesus did in the morning was to find a quiet place where he could talk to God all by himself and commit the day into his hands. Sometimes, it is difficult to find a quiet place to pray. Talk to God about it and he will help you find a quiet place at home, or in a garden, or at the beach, or by a stream, or even a place on your church premises. Sometimes, it is better to get up very early to pray when everyone else is still sleeping and the house is quiet. The Father was the most important person in Jesus' life so he was the first person he talked to every day. Also, only his Father had the power to help Jesus with all the work he had to do for the day, so he always asked God to help him. It is a good thing to talk to God first thing when you wake up, thanking him, and asking him to help you with all that you have to do for the day. And it is good to talk to God all by yourself.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus talk to God first thing in the morning?
2. Why is it important to find a quiet place to talk to God? What about finding a quiet place in your thoughts so you can pray well?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to talk to you first thing in the morning, praising you, and asking for your help for the day, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus prayed first thing in the morning and so should I.

Day 118

Jesus Did Not Judge Others—he Came to Save (See Day 76)

READ
John 8:3-11

To judge others is to find fault with them. Today's story shows us that Jesus did not judge others but came to save them. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law brought a sinful woman to Jesus. The woman had taken somebody's husband. Grown-ups are not allowed to take the wife or husband of another person. Grown-ups who do that commit a sin called adultery. The woman who was brought to Jesus had committed adultery. The Pharisees wanted to see what Jesus would say about the sin of the woman. But Jesus told them to stone her if none of them ever sinned. And all of them left because they had all sinned. Because we all do wrong things every day, we must be careful not to make a habit of finding fault with others. What did Jesus tell the woman? Jesus told her to stop living a life of sin. Probably the woman became a follower of Jesus. Jesus did not condemn her; he saved her. Instead of finding fault with what people do or say, let's tell them about Jesus' love, and that he is able to save them from their sins.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did Jesus condemn the woman in the story?
2. What did Jesus tell her and what do you think the woman did afterwards?
3. Instead of finding fault with people what do you tell them?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me not to find fault with people, rather help me tell them about Jesus who is able to save them from their sins. Amen.

Memorize John 3:17 (NIV): *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

Today's Wise Words

Jesus does not condemn us. He saves us.

Day 119

When Did Jesus Fast?

(See Day 70)

READ
Luke 4:1-2

Jesus did not only talk about fasting, he himself fasted. Fasting means going without food for a time. Jesus fasted for forty days. He practiced what he preached. Who led Jesus into the desert to fast? The Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit helps Christians to fast. When we fast by our own strength we gain nothing from it. When we want to fast, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to do so. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to fast and opens our minds to understand what God wants to do and where he wants us to be. Sometimes, some skip breakfast and that is a half-day fast. Some may skip breakfast and lunch and break at suppertime. That is a whole day's fast. Others can fast for many days. Why not try fasting one of these days; may be a half-day fast or even a whole day! You will make Jesus glad by making the effort and the Holy Spirit is ready to give you strength and determination to complete it.

Dig Out The answers

1. Who led Jesus into the desert to fast?
2. Why do we need the Holy Spirit's help when we decide to fast?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you for teaching that I need to ask the help of the Holy Spirit when I am ready to fast, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to fast.

Day 120

Jesus Provides Food for the Crowd

READ
Matthew 15:29-39

The Miracles of Jesus
The miracles of Jesus prove that Jesus is the Son of God and has complete power over everything that there is and ever will be. Amen.

Jesus has power to give us food when we need it. The crowds saw the many miracles Jesus performed. He healed the lame, the blind, the crippled and the mute. The crowds had been with Jesus for a while now, and Jesus knew they were hungry. Jesus is very loving. He didn't want to send the crowds back to their homes hungry because their homes were far away. Jesus then performed a miracle by feeding four thousand people and more. He did this by multiplying seven loaves and a few fish to feed that many. Whose lunch did he share? Jesus' and his disciples very own lunch? What does this teach you? In order to see God's glory in the life of others, you must be willing to give up something you actually treasure (no matter how little) like your time (to pray and befriend them), money (to buy Bibles or Bible literature for them to read) etc. Today, you can pray for some poor people you know about who can't afford the food they need. What would you give them so Jesus can multiply it to feed more? How is Jesus going to do this with the little (or more) you give? Discuss with your family and church friends?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Write down the diseases Jesus healed.
2. What did Jesus do to feed the crowd?
3. What would Jesus do with what you give?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus gives me daily bread.

Day 121

Jesus Is Never Tired of Providing for Me

READ
John 6:1-12

Remember yesterday's passage? Jesus fed four thousand people and more with seven loaves of bread and a few fish. In this passage, Jesus fed about five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus performed this miracle of feeding thousands of people more than once. Who shared his lunch that day? A little boy. You too can share whatever little you have with those in need, and you will see how God will multiply your little donation to bless many people. One learned Christian said God has a book (read chapter 38, 39 & 40 of the book of Job) which contains the list of everything he has created in the heavens and earth and how each of them and altogether work. It is therefore wise to go to him who knows exactly how the universe works to provide for us. Another lesson from this story is, if Jesus is willing to provide food for us so we will not go hungry and die physically, then we should be willing to come to him to give us food for our inner person so we can become children of God, then we will not die the second death (Revelation 21:8). Jesus usually provides the things we need to call our attention to our need to come to him to save us from our sins and feed us spiritual food, which is the Word of God. The miracles Jesus performs prove that Jesus is the Son of God, who alone can forgive our sins and give us eternal life.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do with the loaves and fish before serving them to the crowd? 2. Were there leftovers? What does it tell you about Jesus? 3. Does Jesus care to provide your needs? Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus wants to feed me spiritual food.

Day 122

Jesus Is Food that Endures to Eternal Life

READ
John 6:25-27

Remember the crowd Jesus fed? They looked for Jesus till they found him. But Jesus knew why they were looking for him. They thought he would keep performing miracles to feed them. Sometimes, we all behave like the crowd in today's story: following Jesus because we want to see miracles and wished we never have to work for anything. But God created humans to work, to think, to research, to investigate and to discover (Genesis 2:15; Psalm 8:3). Jesus performs miracles when he wants to get our attention, and he did get the attention of the crowd in today's story to teach them a very important spiritual truth. You may eat food every day but you'll still die one day. Jesus doesn't want us to follow him because he'll give us food to eat (which he does). Jesus wants us to follow him first and foremost because we believe he is the Son of God who gives us *eternal life*. Those who have eternal life become God's very own representatives in society because they are filled with God's wisdom, and work, think, research, investigate and discover things about God's universe that always point people to Jesus, and they solve problems in the world in ways that make God happy. Would you like to be such a person? Then you must ask Jesus to give you eternal life?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What should be the most important reason to follow Jesus?
2. Why is following Jesus the greatest thing? List them.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words
Jesus is food that endures to eternal life.

Day 123

READ
John
6:28-29

The Work of God

Yesterday, we read about the crowd that went looking for Jesus after he fed them. Jesus had told the crowd to believe in him for eternal life. The crowd now asked Jesus what works they'd have to do in order to have eternal life. And Jesus gave them the answer. Jesus wants all of us to know what the work of God is, the most important work! The work of God is this—to believe in Jesus, that he is the Son of God. This is the most important work in the world and nobody should miss it or refuse it. You do believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who gives eternal life. No other work you do will bring you to heaven except believing that Jesus is the Son of God. No other work you do can bring you the peace of God. And nobody can take away from you God's peace even when you face bad and difficult times.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus say is the work of God?
2. Will any other work take you to heaven?
3. Would any other work make you certain that you are God's child? Why? (John 1:12)

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today

My Prayer: God, help me know that believing in Jesus is the only work of God that will give me eternal life. Amen.

Memorize John 6:29 (NIV): *Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."*

Today's Wise Words

The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.

Day 124

READ
John 6:34-40

Jesus—The Bread of Life

Jesus said that he is the bread of life. What does Jesus mean? We all know we need food to stay alive. But you know a person is not just the physical body you see. You have an inner person that learns, thinks, makes decisions, and fellowships with God, and this is the part we do not see. Jesus calls it the heart. The food we eat only feeds our bodies. The food your heart needs is Jesus, the bread of life. Your heart is either controlled by the 'spirit of death' or by the 'Spirit of life,' the Spirit of God. When you accept Jesus into your heart, he removes the 'spirit of death' and replaces it with the 'Spirit of God,' so that you can live forever. When the Spirit of God lives in you, he controls your heart and you now have a spiritual life. That is why people who do not have Jesus in their hearts are dead in their sins because they are controlled by the spirit of death. Jesus is that spiritual food that can keep you in heaven with God one day. There are many religions which promise spiritual food and you should know by now they are all false: Islam, Buddhists, Hindus, pagans etc. None of their founders rose from the dead to prove that he or she is God's Son and has power over death. Only Jesus. Only Jesus gives eternal life. Only Jesus can bring you to heaven.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why would you say that somebody is dead in his or her sin?
2. Why is your heart important?
(Clue 1Corinthians 2:11-16)

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank Jesus he is the only spiritual food your heart needs to come alive and stay alive.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is the bread of life.

Day 125

Jesus and the Miraculous Catch

READ
Luke 5:1-11

Are you in a situation at work or with your little business (e.g. lemonade stand, baby-sitting job, petty trade) where you need a miracle, because you have tried your best and nothing is working. Nobody is buying and you are as broke as a church mouse. Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen found themselves in such a situation. Jesus had borrowed their boat as a pulpit from which he preached to the crowds. After, he asked them to do some fishing but they were not willing. They had tried the whole night and caught nothing. It was no use. But because they respected Jesus, they did it anyway. He knew exactly where the fish were in the lake. And they made a big catch! Jesus is always present whenever we have a need just as we read in today's story. All we have to do is to ask for his help and listen to what he tells us to do. Would you ask Jesus to open your eyes to see the best way to operate your little business or the big ones your parents own so they will do well and make you all some money. Peter and his fellow fishermen were willing to allow Jesus to borrow their boat even when their business was not doing well. This teaches us that sometimes miracles happen in our lives if we learn to help others especially in times when we also are in great need. What is your need today? Would you be willing to help somebody today in spite of your need? If so, then you are ready to receive a miracle.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What happened when Simon Peter obeyed?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus wants to prosper my work. I only have to listen to him.

Day 126

Jesus and Another Miraculous Catch

READ
John 21:1-9

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples. This was how it happened. Simon Peter and some of the disciples went fishing. They fished the whole night but caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus appeared on the shore, and told them where to cast their nets. And wow! What a large number of fish they caught! Suddenly, it dawned on them—must be the Lord standing on the shore ("the Lord" is another way we speak of Jesus). Sometimes, we are given projects to do at home, school, or workplace. We try our best, but it just doesn't come out right. It is good to turn to the Lord at such times in prayer. Jesus knows exactly how to help you even with your projects. Sometimes too, we think we've done a particular job for so long we can't go wrong, but we do get stumped. It happened to Simon Peter and the disciples. They'd been fishermen all their lives so you'd expect them to be experts. Even they needed Jesus' help. This story teaches us to depend on Jesus in all we do. He is able to meet our need to do our jobs and chores well everyday even if we think we have mastered them so well. Doing our chores and jobs well is a daily need, too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How did Jesus show in the story that he is always ready to provide help in all we do? 2. Did the disciples do what Jesus asked them? 3. If you want Jesus' help, how should you respond to what he tells you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me obey all Jesus tells me when I ask for his help. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: It is the Lord! Follow his instructions.

Day 127

A Miracle for a Man Born Blind

READ
John 9:1-7

Jesus proves again that he is indeed the Son of God. He has power to make blind people see. The disciples thought the man was born blind because he might have sinned (done something wrong), or perhaps his parents had sinned. Jesus told the disciples that was not the reason. The man was born blind so God would show his power by making him see. And that's exactly what Jesus did. He made him see. Jesus put mud mixed with saliva on the blind man's eyes and asked him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The blind man obeyed and he could see. For the first time he saw the world. How wonderful! There are certain problems we may have in our families—sickness, a parent losing a job, not doing well in school, losing a friend, accidents and the like. Jesus wants us to remember that some of these problems are there because God wants to show his power in our lives. But we have to trust him. Go to him in prayer. Believe Jesus as you pray, and he will perform a miracle in your family today.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why was the man in the story born blind?
2. What happened to him when he met Jesus?
3. What does that teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Talk to God about a problem you have had for a long time and trust him to show his power.

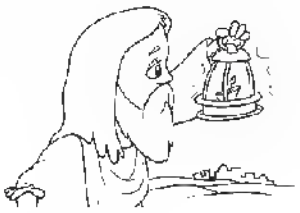
Today's Wise Words: God has allowed some problems in my life to show his power at the right time.

Day 128

READ
John 9:5

Jesus Opens Spiritual Eyes

This verse was part of yesterday's passage. Would you like to memorize it? Jesus said, *"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* Do you know Jesus is still in the world? Yes, he lives in you if you have asked him to be your Lord and Savior. When Jesus comes to live in you, he helps you see. That's exactly what he did for the blind man in yesterday's story. As we discussed a few days ago, each of us has two parts: a physical body and an inner man (heart). Jesus gave sight to the blind man's physical (body) eyes. In the same way, Jesus gives light to the eyes of our hearts so we can see and know God. We see God when we accept that we are sinners and turn to Jesus to save us. We no more walk in darkness like blind men. To walk in darkness means to walk in your sins, not knowing that you need a Savior. You are blind if you don't have Jesus in your life. Thank God, you have eyes that see this beautiful world. But most of all, thank God, the eyes of your heart see Jesus, know him, and follow him every day. Your heart has received light and life because you have allowed God's Holy Spirit to fill it and lead it.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Which set of eyes does Jesus give light to? 2. Is Jesus still in the world today? Where does he live? 3. The light Jesus gives to the eyes of your heart helps you __ God so you can have a spiritual life.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Jesus, thank you for giving light to the eyes of my heart so I can see and know God. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus opens the eyes of my heart to see and know God.

Day 129

Neighbors Take Notice of a Blind man

READ
John 9:8-12

When Jesus does something wonderful in your life, people take notice. This happened to the man born blind. His neighbors realized he had been healed of his blindness. They wondered how that happened, so they asked him. The blind man who could now see told them, "The man called Jesus." The blind man who could now see openly honored Jesus. He wasn't shy or afraid to tell them that Jesus was the one who had healed him. God is happy when we openly honor him before our friends and family. God is happy when we tell others the good things he does for us every day. So, even as you go to school today, or work, or hang out with your friends, remember to honor Jesus by telling about the good things he does for you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Was the man born blind ashamed to tell who had healed him?
2. We _____ God when we tell others about the good things he does for us.
3. What other things can you do to honor God today? List them.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, teach me to honor you, by telling others what you do for me, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Openly honor God when friends question what he is doing in your life.

Day 130

The Pharisees and the Sabbath

READ
John 9:13-17

Do you remember the Pharisees? (See Day 18). They did not like Jesus. Why? Because he pointed out all the things they were doing wrong. God wants us to obey him in *his* way, not our own way. The Pharisees wanted to keep the Sabbath their own way, not God's way. God rested on the seventh day after he finished creating the earth, which is Saturday. God especially commanded all Jews to rest on this day. Most Christians celebrate the Lord's Day on Sunday because Jesus rose on Sunday, the first day of the week. Jesus rising from the dead is a new beginning and it stands for the new covenant (Hebrews 12:24; John 20:26) unlike the old covenant God made with the Jews. The old covenant demanded that Jews made animal sacrifices to cover their sins, which altogether was a picture of Jesus, the lamb of God to come (John 1:29), whose death once and for all would wash away our sins, and there will be no need for animal sacrifices year after year. The Pharisees were angry that Jesus had made the blind man well on a Sabbath. Do you think they should have been angry? They should have been glad a man born blind could now see. They were angry because they did not understand that we keep the Sabbath by doing good to people in need, too. Jesus showed the Pharisees and the Jews the right way to keep the Sabbath—he made the blind see, healed the sick, preached the Good News, and did many good things. Sabbath also means rest from sin. If you are a Christian, God has given you rest from sin (Hebrews 4:9-10).

Dig Out The Answers

1. How can you be wise and holy on the Sabbath?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord, help me keep the Sabbath like Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Keep the Sabbath God's way, not your own way.

Day 131

READ
John 9:18-23

Parents of Blind Man Scared

The Pharisees hated Jesus so much they couldn't see all the good things he was doing. Hatred blinds us from seeing all the good things around us. They still didn't believe Jesus could give sight to a man born blind. They had to ask the man's parents. The man's parents told them that the blind man who could now see was indeed their son. "How is it that now he can see?" the Pharisees asked the parents. The parents were afraid of the Pharisees so they told them to ask their son themselves. They did not want to risk being thrown out of the synagogue, the place of worship. There are some fake Christians in churches too, just like the Pharisees, who make life miserable for true Christians God is using to do great things. They don't' truly believe in the power of God and do not want others to believe, too (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Sometimes, they even threaten to run people out of churches. Don't let such fake Christians bully you. Pray to God to give you boldness to tell even the 'people you are most afraid of' about what Jesus has done for you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why were the parents of the man born blind afraid to admit that Jesus was the one who'd healed their son?
2. When you are afraid to speak the truth about Jesus, what should you do?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray that God will give you boldness to respond to questions about Jesus.

Today's Wise Words

Boldly tell what the Lord has done for you.

Day 132

READ
John
9:24-34

Testimony of the Blind Man

We will continue the story from yesterday. The parents of the man born blind were afraid to say that Jesus was the one who healed their son. So the Pharisees turned to their son to answer the question. The man born blind still insisted it was Jesus who made him see. The Pharisees called Jesus a sinner. Was he? Of course not. We know the Pharisees said that only out of hatred and jealousy. We must be careful not to say nasty things about people because we are jealous of them. The man born blind knew that nobody could do such a miracle unless he was sent from God. Do you also know that? Do you know Jesus is holy and sent from God to save us and heal us? You know what happened to the man whose eyes were opened by Jesus? They threw him out of the synagogue, the Jewish place of worship. Sometimes, you may lose a friend if you decide to walk with Jesus. Some are even thrown out of their homes by their own parents. But that shouldn't discourage you. *"Yes," said Jesus, "and you won't regret it. No one who has sacrificed home, spouse, brothers and sisters, parents, children—whatever—will lose out. It will all come back multiplied many times over in your lifetime. And then the bonus of eternal life"* (Luke 18:29-30 MSG). Jesus, the Mighty One, is able to take better care of you than anyone else in the world.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did the blind man change his story because the Pharisees kept bothering him? 2. Even though someone may keep pestering you about your faith in Jesus, should that make you stop telling the truth about Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Don't be jealous of Christian friends God is using to do great work.

Day 133

The Blind Man Meets Jesus

READ
John 9:35-41

Jesus heard that the blind man he healed had been thrown out of church. He went looking for him. Jesus truly cared about this man and he cares for you, too. Would you also reach out to somebody who has been thrown out of church for no good reason? Or even their home, or friendship circles? You must remember that the blind man had not seen Jesus, yet. He was blind when he met Jesus. Jesus asked him to go wash in a pool after putting mud mixed with spit on his eyes. He obeyed Jesus, and as soon as he finished washing in the pool, he could see. Jesus told him that he was and still is the Son of God. The man believed in Jesus and worshipped him. Anyone who comes to believe in Jesus worships him. If Jesus is worshipped, then he is God. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." Jesus is no ordinary man. He is the Son of God. Jesus also said something very important to the man who could now see, "I came to make the blind see." Remember that everybody in the world is born spiritually blind, that is, we are born sinners. If you admit you are blind and come to Jesus, he will open the eyes of your heart so you can see and know God, as the Holy Spirit comes in. The Pharisees would not admit that they were blind so they refused to repent and remained blind. Can you see?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What kind of blindness were the Pharisees suffering from?
2. What do you have to do to have the eyes of your heart open?
3. Why did Jesus follow up with the blind man in today's story and what was the result?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord, thank you for healing me of spiritual blindness and following me up every day to make sure I know you better.

Today's Wise Words

Follow up with people you share the Good News with.

Day 134

READ
Mark
8:22-26

The Blind Man at Bethsaida

Jesus used spit to heal this blind man also at Bethsaida. Isn't it nice that Jesus never turned any sick person away who came to him for healing? Likewise, Jesus will never turn you away when you come to him in prayer with a request. The blind man did not see clearly right away when Jesus spat on his eyes. The second time around, he could see clearly. The more Jesus touched his eyes the better he saw. That's the lesson here.

The more Jesus touches the eyes our hearts, the better we see God. How does Jesus touch and change our hearts? He touches us when we read the Word of God daily, obey it, and pray. When we do these things, the light of Christ in us shines brighter and brighter. The more we see God clearly, the more we enjoy our lives on earth. We have peace and lots of joy in all situations. So let's continue to walk in the light of Jesus. Don't forget that only Jesus performs such miracles. He has power to do anything. Keep trusting him!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do for the blind man?
2. What do we do in order to see God more clearly each day?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.

My Prayer: God, help me walk in the light of Christ daily.

Today's Wise Words: The light of Christ in me gets brighter day by day as I read the Bible and obey it.

Day 135

READ
Matthew 20:29-34

Blind Men Call Out to Jesus

This is another story of Jesus healing blind men. They sat down by the roadside calling out to Jesus to have mercy on them. Do you know you can also call out to Jesus when you are in need? The crowd didn't want them shouting out for Jesus. But, did the blind men listen to the crowd? No! And you should never listen to what the world is saying about Jesus. The people of the world don't know Jesus. They don't know about his love and power and goodness. Jesus heard the cry of the blind men. He touched their eyes and healed them. Immediately they could see, and they became Jesus' disciples. Have you noticed that every time Jesus healed a blind man, he became a follower of Jesus? Unless Jesus opens your eyes, the eyes of your heart, your inner person, you cannot see him to follow him. You can trust Jesus today to heal a friend or family member of physical blindness. Believe that he is able to do that. But, most important of all, pray that Jesus will open the eyes of their hearts so they can follow him as Savior and Lord.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why shouldn't you listen to the crowd out there in the world?
2. Will Jesus answer you if you keep calling for him like the two blind men?
3. Why is it important that Jesus opens the eyes of your inner person?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me follow Jesus every day, because he opened my eyes. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Cry out; call out to Jesus when you need him.

Day 136

READ
John 8:12

Walk in the Light

We have read stories about Jesus healing blind men. Blind men live in darkness. They don't see anything around them—the beautiful world or their loved ones. Jesus doesn't want anyone to walk in darkness. We all know the dangers of walking in darkness. There may be criminals, wild animals hunting for food, creepy crawlies that could sting, and other bad things. It is the same with those suffering from spiritual blindness. They too walk in spiritual darkness. Walking in spiritual darkness means you still live in your sins. Because sin is like darkness, you don't see your way clearly and therefore you are deceived by the devil and his demons (criminals) into all kinds of evil and foolish actions, as well as by the love of worldly things (which are like creepy crawlies stinging you when you least expect and wild animals mauling you to death). When you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, he gives light to your heart and you are able to distinguish between truth and lies. And not just that, Jesus gives you power to avoid the lies from the devil and the evil ideas of the world. You see and know the truth and Jesus gives you power to practice it. Would you memorize this verse? *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8:12 (NIV).*

Dig Out The Answers

1. Whoever follows Jesus will never walk in ___
2. Apart from Christ, all other religions are lies and deceptions from the devil and his demons. List other bad ideas.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God for giving you the light of life.

Today's Wise Words:
The light of Jesus drives away spiritual darkness.

Day 137

READ
Mark
1:40-42

A Miracle for a Leper

Jesus did not only make the blind see, he also healed those who suffered from leprosy. Leprosy is a skin disease that spreads all over the body. It also destroys a leper's appearance as it spreads over the body. A leper is somebody with leprosy. In Jesus' time lepers were very sad people, because there was no medicine that could cure them. Lepers could not live in towns because others could get the disease. Sooner or later, a whole town would have leprosy. To prevent this from happening, all lepers lived together at a place outside of town. Likewise, sin like leprosy, keeps us away from God and the good things he offers (James 1:17) to those who are citizens of his kingdom. Jesus actually touched the leper in today's story. The leper was healed immediately and Jesus did not get infected. Jesus made a very important point here. He is the Son of God and has power to heal and not get infected. Jesus loves and touches you with his love even if you are covered in sores from top to bottom and disfigured. Jesus is not like us who despise and avoid people who are disfigured by disease. The leper wanted to be healed so he asked whether Jesus was willing to heal him, and Jesus said, "Yes." He was willing to heal him, and he did. Jesus is always willing to heal you. Why not ask him. And always remember to tell him that you will also accept what he wants in your life, because he is wise and knows what is best for you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Jesus didn't mind touching the leper even though he looked yucky. What do you learn about the character of Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

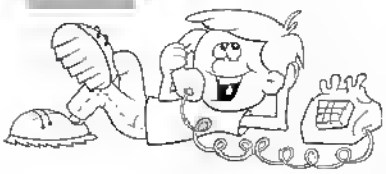
Today's Wise Words: Jesus still says, "I am willing."

Day 138

A Cured Leper Tells About Jesus

READ
Mark 1:43-45

We are continuing yesterday's story. The leper had been cured. He was so happy. Jesus told him to go show himself to the priest. During the time of Jesus, the priests were responsible for checking whether a leper had been healed or not. The priests followed the law God gave Moses. When the priest was sure a leper had been healed, the leper brought an offering to God. Now you know why Jesus told the leper to go show himself to the priest. Jesus followed the rules or laws of his time. Just as the leper was accepted back into the temple and the town after he was cured, God accepts all who are cleansed by the blood of Jesus from their sins and they become members of God's family. Jesus is a far better priest than those at the temple in Jerusalem (Hebrews 7:26-28). He himself cures us from sin by washing us in his blood, and heals us by his word. Jesus told the leper not to tell anyone about his healing because his great aim was to be a Savior from sin not just a popular healer. Jesus wants to let everyone know he is the Son of God who saves us from sin. Your great aim as a Christian in doing good is to share the good news of God's love, and not to be popular. In spite of what Jesus said, the cured leper went around telling about what the Lord had done for him, and that was good. You too can do the same.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What should be the number one reason for doing good deeds?
2. What did the leper do when he realized he'd been healed?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.
My Prayer: Write your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus' great aim was to be a Savior not just a popular healer.

Day 139

READ
Luke 17:11-14

Miracle for Ten Lepers

We now know that lepers couldn't live in towns, only on the outskirts. Also, they had to stay a safe distance from healthy-looking people. As we learned earlier, the disease is contagious, that is, it spreads from person to person. In today's story, ten lepers stood at a distance calling out to Jesus to heal them. They had heard that Jesus was passing by. Jesus heard their cry, took pity on them, and told them to go show themselves to the priest. They believed Jesus so they set out to go see the priest. And that was when it happened. They were all cured. Unlike the leper we read about two days ago, Jesus did no more than just speak to them and they were healed. We are amazed at the different ways Jesus could heal. Likewise, Jesus uses different ways to get the attention of sinners to come to him to save them. He may touch somebody, as he touched the leper we read about a few days ago and heal him to get his attention. Or, he may speak as he did in today's passage to get the attention of another person. Today, Jesus does the healing and preaching through Christians. God works in so many ways to save our friends and relatives we pray for. Let's just trust him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to heal the ten lepers?
2. Did the lepers do what Jesus told them?
3. What happened when they obeyed?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord God, help me know that you heal in so many ways. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

"And as they went, they were cleansed."

Day 140

READ
Luke 17:15-19

The Thankful Leper

Yesterday, we read about the ten lepers who called out to Jesus to heal them. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priest. Remember, why they had to go show themselves to the priest? Read the notes on Day 138. As they went on their way, they all got healed. Why? Because they believed Jesus, and so they obeyed his command. Likewise, the only way to show you have faith in Jesus is to obey him. Only one of the ten cured lepers came back to thank Jesus. Surprisingly, he was the only foreigner. The rest were Jews. He talked to Jesus face to face. By doing this, he got to know Jesus better. Jesus told him that his faith had saved him, which meant, he had completely trusted Jesus, the Son of God, as his Savior. He was now a follower of Jesus, unlike the rest of the cured lepers, who were Jews. Like the Jewish lepers in today's story, there are people who have been in church for so long, and yet, they take Jesus for granted and are not thankful for blessings they receive from him. Sometimes, such people remain in church and are not saved, or if they are saved they never really enjoy their relationship with Jesus because they are not grateful. Grateful people talk to God a lot and get to know him better. You will enjoy your Christian life better and you will find little to complain about life if you remain thankful for every little thing.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the leper who came back to thank Jesus receive? 2. What does that teach you.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down a prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words:

"Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Day 141

READ
Matthew 9:12-13

Leprosy, Sin, and the Doctor

Jesus had called Matthew, a tax collector, whom the Pharisees saw as one of the worst sinners in Israel, to follow him. Matthew was so happy, he invited his fellow tax collectors to a dinner he held for Jesus. The Pharisees could not believe that Jesus would be friends with such sinners. When the Pharisees questioned Jesus, he told them that only sick people needed a doctor. Jesus is saying that, if you accept that you are a sinner, then he can save you from your sin. Jesus is the greatest doctor. Do you know the Bible says that in some ways sin is like leprosy? Sin separates us from God and his great love for us, just as lepers were separated from healthy people, lived outside of towns in the old times, and could not enjoy the good life in towns. Sin spreads just like leprosy, all over the body, from one person to the other, from one town to the next, from one country to the other. Sin is contagious and disgusting just like leprosy. Nobody can stop it from spreading except Jesus. Jesus wants us to know that unless we see ourselves the way God sees us, as sinners, we cannot be saved. The Pharisees would not accept that they were sinners and so they did not need a doctor. The only way sin stops growing in you, and stops spreading to others is to accept that you are a sinner. Then ask Jesus to forgive you and to become your Lord and Savior. The day you said it, you became a child of God. Jesus washed away all your sins and you are now clean.

Dig Out The Answers

1 Who can stop sin from growing in you, and spreading from you to other persons?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank Jesus he washed away your sins.

Today's Wise Words

"For I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Day 142

READ
LUKE 18:13

The Prayer of the Tax Collector

Would you memorize the prayer of the tax collector in this passage? Excellent! The tax collectors in Jesus' day were not respected, in fact, they were despised because they cheated their fellow Jews by collecting more taxes from them than was required to pay to the Romans who were ruling them. The tax collector in this passage came to his senses and saw his sins as God saw them. He called out to God to have mercy on him. Do you remember the leper who asked Jesus to have pity on him? The prayer of the leper is like the tax collector's prayer. They both needed healing. As we discussed yesterday, our sinful actions look as disgusting as leprosy. But there is good news. Jesus is the doctor who heals us from sin. All those who come to Jesus will be washed clean in his blood. You must keep praying for your family members who don't see themselves as sinners. Pray that Jesus will open their eyes to see their need for salvation. When they come to Jesus, his blood will wash away their sins and they will become clean.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why was the tax collector beating his breast or chest?
2. What did the tax collector call himself?
3. What was his prayer and why was it an important prayer?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray that your family members will all come to know Jesus and call out to God as the tax collector did in today's story.

Today's Wise Words

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Day 143

READ
Matthew 23:25-26

Cups Full of Dirt

Jesus was talking to the Pharisees and teachers of the law (see Day 18 and 25). He compared them to a cup that is clean outside but dirty inside. There are people who seem good to us though they may not be Christians, but God still calls them sinners. Only God sees what is inside our hearts. And God, who sees what is inside our hearts, says we are all sinners unless we come to Jesus to wash us clean in his blood. Which part of the cup do you think should be kept clean first, the inside or the outside? Of course, the inside—you pour water or drink into the cup. You better be sure the inside is clean, and then you can worry about the outside of the cup! Jesus says those who just want to look good on the outside and don't worry about the inside are spiritually blind. What you are inside, that is, your sinful heart controls the way you think, see, and treat God and people. Jesus called the Pharisees blind because they were not aware of the wickedness and sinfulness of their hearts and insisted on making up with God their own way. God has approved only one way by which we can be made clean and that is when our hearts are washed in the blood of Jesus, his Son. Inside, our hearts are washed and we become like Jesus, thinking like him more each day. Outside, it shows in the good things we do. Continue to pray for people who don't know Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why does Jesus say those who want to look good only on the outside are blind?
2. How do you become clean inside?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Jesus, that your blood has made me clean inside because I have asked you into my life and my actions are changing to show it. Amen.

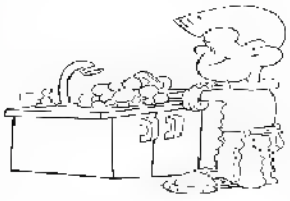
Today's Wise Words: What you are inside is more important.

Day 144

READ
Mark 7:1-8

The Pharisees Are Unclean

We are still talking about how to be clean inside out. As we discussed earlier, the Bible compares our sinful actions to leprosy. Unless the blood of Jesus washes us clean, we will remain in our sins, die and end up in the lake of fire. Remember the Pharisees? They did not know what it meant to be clean. They thought they were made clean by obeying so many rules. Washing hands before eating, washing of cups, kettles, fasting, and long prayers were some of the rules the Pharisees followed carefully. As you read today, the Pharisees came and watched Jesus' disciples. They noticed that Jesus' disciples did not always wash their hands before eating. They didn't know God accepted people only when they have been made clean inside. Being a Christian is not about following rules. First, you will be clean, when the blood of Jesus washes you and places in you his Holy Spirit who gives you power to think and act like Jesus. It doesn't matter whether you kneel to pray or stand to pray. It doesn't matter whether you pray aloud or pray in your head. It doesn't matter whether there are shouts of Amens and Hallelujahs in your church or not. Those things don't save a sinner. Only Jesus can make you clean. Are you clean?



Dig Out The Answers

1. If you follow all the rules and style of worship in your church, will you be made clean? 2. How do you become clean?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please help me know that I'm saved only because I asked Jesus to come into my life, not by following any church rules or style of worship. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Church rules don't save; styles of church worship don't save. Only Jesus saves.

Day 145

READ
Mark 7:17-19

The Heart and the Stomach

The disciples asked Jesus to explain how one becomes clean or unclean. Being clean means God has accepted you as his child, because you have asked Jesus into your life. Being unclean means you are not God's child, because you don't have Jesus in your life. It has nothing to do with germs. Of course, if you refuse to wash your dirty hands before eating, you may get germs into your body and fall sick. So you must be careful to keep your body clean. However, the most important thing of all is whether your heart is clean. Jesus explains that it's not what you put into your body, which makes you unclean. Some of the things 'outside' we put into our bodies are food and drink. What makes us sinners or unclean is what comes out of our hearts. *"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God"* (Galatians 5:19-21 NLT). Unless Jesus changes our sinful hearts, we are still sinners, no matter how many times we wash down or follow rules.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Will food or drink make you unclean?
2. What are the things which make us unclean and where do they come from?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank Jesus that his blood makes us clean.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus makes our whole life clean if we ask him.

Day 146

READ
Mark 7:20-23

The Fruit of Sinful Hearts

Jesus talked about the things that are in the heart of sinners. Do you know all the people in the world are wrongdoers until they give their lives to Christ? Can you list some of the wrong things from our hearts that show in our actions—bad thoughts, stealing, killing, envy, bad language, swearing, lies, and many others. You realize that there's no way anybody can claim to be clean before God. You can try to be good, but your own efforts will never make you good enough for God to accept you as his child. Proud people don't like hearing this. No matter how small or big your sins, you will die because that is where any type of sin leads to (Romans 6:23). Death is both physical and spiritual. We die physically when we stop breathing, which happens to both Christians and non-Christians. You are spiritually dead if Jesus is not in your life. On the last day God will raise you up (both body and inner person), judge you, and throw you into the lake of fire along with the devil and his demons, which is the second death, a very horrible thing. God, who is full of love, does not want anybody to experience this and that is why he sent Jesus to suffer death so we won't have to. We inherited the sin nature from our first parents, Adam and Eve. When we live in sin, we hate the ways of God and we destroy each other. That is why so many things are wrong in families, communities, and nations. Believing in Jesus makes us God's friends and we begin to love people the way he wants and we stop hurting each other.

Dig Out The Answers

1. List some of the evil things that come from our hearts.
2. Can anyone in the world stop sinning? How does God solve this problem?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: The heart without Jesus is full of sin.

Day 147

READ
Luke 15:1-7

Joy in Heaven

Jesus says that there is great rejoicing in heaven when a sinner turns to God. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were angry that the hated tax collectors, who they despised as the worst sinners, were listening to Jesus' message, repenting of their sins, and following him. Probably, they were jealous their teachings did not lead any tax collector to turn away from his sins. If they could not, why Jesus. They had a bad attitude and proved that they did not actually care whether a sinner was saved or not. Are you angry other Christians are more successful than you in bringing people to Jesus? It is God who chooses whom he wishes to use to lead others to Jesus, and if we truly care, we will be happy and praise God as it happens in heaven. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the angels together, all shout for joy. One more person has escaped the lake of fire; one more person has come into the light; one more person is going to keep sin from spreading in the world. God, like a good shepherd, is always out there, calling out to people to follow him. God wants all Christians to be his special helpers, sharing the Good News.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Should you be happy or jealous when someone else other than you leads somebody to Jesus to save him? Why?
2. How do we become God's special helpers?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words
There's rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents.

Day 148

READ
John 13:10

Clean Your Dirty Feet

Jesus was washing his disciples feet at his last Passover meal. Peter refused. But Jesus explained to him that allowing him to do this would show that Peter belonged to him. Peter replied that if that was the case, then Jesus should wash his whole body so he would be sure that he belonged to him completely. Jesus explained that once you take a bath and go out for a walk, all you need to do is to wash your dirty feet when you come back in. What did Jesus mean? When you take a bath you become clean. Right! In the same way, when we are washed in the blood of Jesus we become clean, our whole person—spirit, soul, and body. You only have to ask Jesus to come into your life once and that's it. When he comes in, he washes you from all your sins and you become clean once and for all. It's just as if you've taken a bath. That's what Jesus meant by a person who has had a bath. Now, what does it mean to wash your feet? Even though God has forgiven us all our past, present and future sins, and we are on our way to heaven, we do not stop sinning or doing wrong things because we live in a sinful world full of temptations. God knows that sometimes we will give in when tempted. When we sin, it is as if we *dirtied* our feet—little lies, disliking somebody, not doing your chores, being mean, talking back to your parents or supervisors and the like. We wash our dirty feet by going to God in prayer and telling him we are sorry. We then ask the Holy Spirit to help us not to do the same wrong things all over again. When we do that, it means we have *washed our feet.*
Read and memorize Proverbs 28:13.

Dig Out The Answers
In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words
Wash your dirty feet by confessing your sins often.

Day 149

READ
John 15:3

The Word Makes You Clean

Jesus taught his disciples at his last Passover meal that they are clean because of *the Word* he has spoken to them. Jesus is telling you the same thing today. The disciples believed that Jesus is the Son of God. If you believe this and let this truth guide what you say and do, you don't need to be afraid. You are God's child and you are clean. The Word of God is the Bible and it helps us stay clean? As we said before, even though we are Christians we do sin sometimes. When we do, we go to God in prayer and tell him we are sorry, and then we are forgiven. Good! How do you know you are doing the wrong thing? We know what is right from wrong when we make a habit of reading the Word of God. The more you read the Word of God and do what it says, the more you are able to say "no" to sin. The more you know and obey the Word of God, the more you enjoy being a Christian. So continue to stay clean and happy as a Christian, reading the Word of God and obeying it.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus say makes us clean?
2. How does the Word of God help you stay clean?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you God that because I believe Jesus is the Son of God, I am clean. Help me stay clean by reading the Bible and obeying it every day. Amen

Today's Wise Words

The Word of God helps me stay clean as I obey it.

Day 150

READ
Mark 2:1-5

Friends of a Paralyzed Man

The friends of a paralyzed man heard that Jesus was in Capernaum. A paralyzed man cannot walk. They wanted their friend to walk again. They decided to take their friend to Jesus. But when they got to the house there was a big crowd. They couldn't enter the room where Jesus was. They decided to get their friend through the roof of the house. It was hard work. What wonderful friends! When Jesus saw their faith, he told the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven. There's an important lesson here for us to learn. If you have faith in Jesus, he will open your eyes to see a way out of your problem or a problem family or friends are having. You can know what Jesus can do to solve your problem by going where he is just as the friends of the paralyzed man did. Since Jesus is not here physically, you can go to him by praying to him and listening to what he has to say. The paralyzed man received forgiveness. He was sick because he had done some very bad things. Sometimes, we fall sick because of some very bad things we have done to others. It does not mean that you should make a habit of thinking every bad thing that happens to you is a result of some sins in your life, but it was the case of the paralyzed man in today's story. Are there sins in your life you need to confess and things you have to return because you stole them from some needy people, or people you thought you were smarter than?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the friends bring the paralyzed man to Jesus? 2. What did the paralyzed man receive when he was brought to Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray for friends walking in spiritual darkness.

Today's Wise Words: Memorize James 5:16a (NLT)
"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

Day 151

Jesus Has Power to Forgive Sins

READ
Mark 2:6-12

We are still reading the story of the paralyzed man and his friends. Jesus told the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven. The teachers of the law thought Jesus was making himself equal to God by forgiving sins. They knew only God had power to forgive sins. But Jesus knew what they were thinking and right then and there, he showed them that as the Son of God he really did have power to forgive sins.

He turned to the paralyzed man, told him to take his mat and go home. The paralyzed man's sins were forgiven, and so he received healing. He could walk again, and all present were indeed amazed. Jesus is still able to make the lame walk today, so you pray and trust God for any you know who can't walk. In a similar sense, a person without Jesus is paralyzed spiritually. But when such a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, his sins are forgiven, and he is able to *walk in the truth* and follow Jesus daily. Nobody can *walk* the way to heaven unless his sins are forgiven. The way to heaven is through Jesus Christ alone. Are you walking with God? Or are you paralyzed?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do for the paralyzed man to show that he has power to forgive sins? 2. What happened to the paralyzed man when Jesus forgave his sins?
3. What do you do to be able to walk with God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Thank God you can walk with him.

Today's Wise Words: Memorize Ecclesiastes 2:14a (NLT)
"For the wise can see where they are going, but fools walk in the dark."

Day 152

READ
John 11:9-11

Walk by Day

Jesus is saying in this passage that there are twelve hours in a day we all have to do our work. Nobody can make the day any longer or any shorter. Jesus had work to do while here on earth and he did not allow the bullying tactics of the Pharisees to scare him. When you read verse 11, it tells you that Jesus was getting ready to go and raise Lazarus from the dead. That was the work he had to do then. You also have work to do while you are alive and God wants you to do it while there is light. Jesus is the light that helps you do the work of God. What is the work of God? The work of God is to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who saves us from our sins. Have you done that work? Darkness refers to a life without God. Those who walk in darkness walk in disobedience because they have not accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. Nobody sees well in darkness; you will stumble and hurt yourself. This is what happens to those who don't have Jesus in their lives. They don't know where to turn to when they have problems so they stumble, fall, hurting themselves again and again. But Jesus' friends, Mary and Martha, enjoyed the help of Jesus because they believed in him and walked in his light. Therefore they could call on Jesus to raise their brother Lazarus back to life. Are you walking with Jesus, then you are walking in daylight. And you can call on him, as Mary and Martha did, to heal a loved one or even raise him or her back to life. Jesus' power is the same today as it was then.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why walk by daylight? 2. Who is this light?
3. What does it mean to walk in darkness?
4. What is the work of God? John 6:29

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned today.
My Prayer: Write your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: God has work for me to do in this world.

Day 153

READ
John 8:23-24

Jesus Is from Above

Jesus was teaching in the 'court of the women' at the temple. There the Pharisees and teachers of the law brought a woman to Jesus and demanded that she should be stoned because she had taken another woman's husband, which was against the law. They all had to drop their stones when Jesus demanded that only the person who had not sinned could stone her. Jesus had exposed them as sinful people too and it made them very angry. It was clear to them that Jesus was truly sent from God but they wanted to belittle him so they demanded that he proved it. Jesus patiently explained further: "I am from above," which meant, he came from heaven. Jesus came from his Father in heaven. Who does Jesus claim to be? The Christ. Christ is the same as Messiah. God promised to send Christ to come and save us from our sins (Genesis 3:15).

The Pharisees were self-righteous (i.e. they thought by following rules they had earned a right relationship with God) and were very offended that Jesus exposed them as sinners. Are you grateful that the Bible exposes you as a sinner who needs Jesus to save you or does that make you angry like the Pharisees.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who does Jesus claim to be?
2. Why did Jesus come down to earth from heaven?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you for sending Jesus so I won't die in my sins. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus came from heaven.

Day 154

READ
John 8:34-36

Jesus Sets Us Free

Jesus was still at the temple explaining that he was the promised Messiah. Of course, the Pharisees and teachers of the law were not pleased because some of the Jews listening believed in him. Would you like to memorize John 8:36? *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* Wonderful! Jesus teaches a very important lesson here. He says that everyone who sins is a slave to sin. A slave does only his master's will. If we are slaves to sin, the only thing we will do is sin, thinking and doing wrong things. All the good things we do are polluted with sin. Learned Christians would say everything we do have a DNA of sin, no matter how good! What Jesus is saying is this: until he sets us free, we are all slaves to sin, just like the paralyzed man we read about a few days ago. How does Jesus set us free? He sets us free from being slaves to sin by forgiving us our sins. Yes, when you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, he washes you in his blood, and you are set free. You are free to do what is right because the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. You are no more a slave to sin but a child of God. Do you know that only the children belong to a family and not the slave or servant? When you become a child of God, you belong to the family of God, and you are free!

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is a slave to sin? 2. Who can set you free?
3. What do you do to become part of God's family?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: You belong to the family of God if Christ lives in you. Thank God for that.

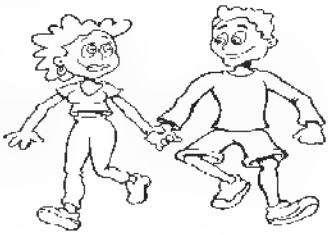
Today's Wise Words: The Son (Christ) sets us free.

Day 155

READ
John 8:3-11

Leave Your Life of Sin

Back to the full story of the woman who was caught in sin on Day 153. The important sentence in this passage to think about is this—*"Go now and leave your life of sin."* Jesus spoke those words to the woman. The law of Moses, which guided the everyday life of Jews, demanded that she is stoned. Remember those who were pointing the finger at her believed they were righteous people until Jesus told them that only those who had not sinned could stone her. Jesus was the only one without sin and even he did not condemn her. All those who accused her (Pharisees and Jews) left in disgrace because they had all sinned. Sometimes, we behave like the Pharisees when somebody we see as a very bad person comes to Christ. Instead of celebrating that the person has turned to God, we join others to make them feel terrible for their past sins. Sometimes those who point fingers more readily are those who are committing similar sins. Left alone with Jesus, the woman could really see what a sinner she was. In the presence of Jesus, we see how truly sinful we are and the humble among us ask for forgiveness. And every time Jesus tells us the same thing, "I accept you but leave your life of sin." Would you leave the particular sins tripping you up? Would you start using the Holy Spirit's power to obey God?



Dig Out The Answers

1. Should you copy the behavior of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law in today's story? Why?
2. What does Jesus want us to leave when we are forgiven?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you overcome sins that trip you often.

Today's Wise Words: Go now and leave your life of sin!

Day 156

READ
Matthew 8:5-7

The Centurion's Servant

When Jesus entered a town called Capernaum, a centurion (an officer of the Roman army) came to ask him for help. His servant was sick, paralyzed and suffering. He wanted Jesus to heal him. Isn't this army officer a kind man? He was humble too—he could have just sent one of the soldiers who worked under him, but he came himself to Jesus. He placed very high value on the life of his servant. An army officer or a centurion was the boss of a hundred soldiers. Do you value the life of everyone in your family, everyone you sit in class with, and everyone you work with. Do you always remember that Jesus died for each of them just as he died for you and he places the same value on everyone? When you are made a leader of a group, remember to be kind to all the members and don't boss over them as though you are superior. Be ready to help when any of them has a problem just as the army officer did for his servant. See how Jesus was willing to go immediately with the army officer to heal his servant. Jesus could see how he loved and valued the life of his servant. Is it possible that sometimes God does not answer our prayers because we do not place high value and truly really respect the people we are praying for? Pray that God will give you genuine love and respect for those you pray for.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What was the kind thing the army officer did?
2. What did Jesus do about the army officer's request?
3. What does Jesus' answer teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Love and respect those you pray for.

Day 157

READ
Matthew 8:8-13

The Faith of The Centurion

What great faith the centurion had in Jesus. He only wanted Jesus to speak, and he was sure the words of Jesus would make his servant well again. Do you remember how God made the world? Yes. God just spoke words, and everything you see around came to be (Genesis 1). That's how great God is. That's how great Jesus is. The centurion understood one important thing—Jesus has power over all diseases. As an army officer, he knew that the soldiers under him had to obey his commands. He understood that a boss had to be obeyed. So, if Jesus indeed is the boss over everything, of things seen and things not seen, then everything will have to obey Jesus' commands. Did the disease leave the centurion's servant when Jesus spoke? Yes, of course. Jesus proved again that he has authority over diseases as the Son of God. Now that you know Jesus is indeed the boss over everything, be bold and take your worries to him. He is more than able to help you. The centurion's request to Jesus is very important to those of us who never saw Jesus physically. He healed the centurion's servant who did not see him physically by just speaking, and so we can trust him to heal us when we pray. Even though we do not see him physically, we know he has spoken the word that would heal us and has given us a solution to our problems. Have faith in the word Jesus has spoken concerning your healing and problems.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the centurion have that surprised Jesus?
2. Why did he have this much faith in Jesus' words?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray for those who are terribly ill.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus has power to heal people suffering from terrible diseases even if he is not physically present.

Day 158

READ
Mark
11:20-24

Have Faith in God

Jesus was very pleased with the kind of faith the centurion had. Faith is trusting someone to do for you what you cannot do for yourself. Something that is trusted is something that is true. Something that is true has no flaws or weaknesses. Because we have a sinful nature, we sin, which is our weakness. Only God is true, without any flaw or weakness. One thing we cannot do is to save ourselves from sin because nobody is true. Because Jesus is God, Jesus is true and he can save us from sin. To have faith is to believe in the only one who is true, Jesus, along with what God through his Holy Spirit spoke through the prophets of old, the apostles, and the disciples of Jesus, found in the Bible. To have faith in any other thing or person other than Jesus, together with the words in the Bible, to save you from sin, is to believe lies and deception. People who sincerely have faith in Jesus bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit and faith is one of them. Jesus had earlier in today's story, cursed a fig tree, which did not bear fruit in season and it died. It was a lesson to his disciples to show them what happens to those who pretend to have faith in him but actually don't. They will perish as the fig tree did. We trust our parents to provide for us because they have been doing it since we were born even though they are not true. How much more should we trust God, rely on him, our true parent, not only to save us from sin but to provide for us?

Dig Out The Answers

1. In whom should we have faith? Why?
2. How does faith grow?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: *Have faith in God," Jesus answered* (Mark 11:22, NIV).

Day 159

READ
John 14:8-12

Have Faith in Jesus

Jesus taught his disciples at his last Passover meal that the Father is in him, and he is in the Father. Jesus and the Father are one, and so Jesus is God. And because Jesus and God the Father are one, we can have complete faith in him. The *words* Jesus spoke showed in the miracles he performed. The miracles Jesus performed were his *works*. The words Jesus spoke and the works that followed proved that Jesus came from God. So, we must believe in him. Jesus didn't say one thing then turned around to do something else. Whatever he said, he also did. Jesus promised that when we put our faith in him, we'd do what he did and even greater things. This is what Jesus meant by *doing greater things*—we together as believers would be his hands and feet, going throughout the world and telling people the Good News. When Jesus was here on earth, he was only one person doing all the work, but when he died and rose again, and ascended to heaven, he poured himself into all who believe, by giving us his Holy Spirit. And by the power of the Holy Spirit we are doing greater things all over the world. We (Christians) go into so many places preaching the Good News, healing the sick, and performing miracles. Many lives are saved. But it is still Jesus working through us by His Holy Spirit. Have faith in him and you will do greater things!

Dig Out The Answers

1. From the passage, what does Jesus want us to believe about him? 2. List some of the greater things Jesus is doing through Christians.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God teach me to put my faith in Jesus so I can do greater things. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

"You'll do greater things because I am going to the Father."

Day 160

READ
John
7:28-31

Jesus' Miracles Bring People to God

What did the crowd do? They put their faith in Jesus. Why? They saw the miracles Jesus performed. Jesus made the blind see, the lame walked, raised dead people, healed lepers, and many other sicknesses. The miracles Jesus performed proved that Jesus was really the Christ, the a*nointed* Savior of the world (Christ or Messiah means anointed). But do you know the greatest miracle of all? When Jesus comes into someone's life, he changes that person. Did you ever hear of an uncle who was maybe a drunk but since coming to Jesus has stopped drinking completely? Did you ever hear of criminals in prison who gave their lives to Christ and have since stopped robbing banks, killing people, and doing other bad things? The greatest miracle is that God can change the hearts of people through the work of his Holy Spirit. You know, there are people who refuse to accept that they are sinners and rely on their own strength to lead good moral lives. Theirs is not a change by God. They are self-made people. People like that have hearts full of pride. If they do not repent of their pride, which is a big sin, they will be thrown into the lake of fire on Judgment Day. Pride was Satan's sin and that was why he got kicked out of heaven (1Timothy 3:6). Look at your own life and see how God helps you by his power to do what is right. These are the things that should help us continue to put our faith in Jesus, just as the crowd did.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the crowd put their faith in Christ?
2. Who is the Christ? What does Christ mean?
3. What is the greatest miracle of all?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Thank God for the greatest miracle.

Today's Wise Words: My changed life is the greatest miracle.

Day 161

READ
Mark
7:31-35

Jesus Heals in His Own Way

Jesus healed a man who could neither hear nor speak. The people who brought the deaf and mute man wanted Jesus to lay his hands on him. But Jesus did not do that. Rather, he put his fingers in his ears and spat on his tongue. Then he prayed and said, "Be opened!" When we go to God in prayer, we sometimes want to tell him how to answer our prayers. But that is not the right way. Jesus healed the deaf and mute man not by laying his hands on him, as his friends wanted him to, rather he put his fingers in his ears, and spat on his tongue. God heals us using different means that seem best to him. All we have to do is to ask him to heal us when we are sick or when someone dear to us is sick. Jesus has power to heal any disease, the way he wants. Have faith in him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to heal the man in the story?
2. Jesus healed the man his own way and not the way those who brought him wished. What does this teach you about what you ask for in prayer?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: God, help me know that Jesus heals me, or my dear ones his way, whenever I ask him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus heals his way not my way.

Day 162

READ
Mark 7:36-37

Jesus Does All Things Well

Yesterday, we read about the deaf and mute man Jesus healed. The man began hearing and speaking clearly. He was a happy man that day. The people around were amazed. They were happy about the miracle Jesus had performed. They said, "He has done everything well." You should remember every day that Jesus does everything well. Things done *well* are things done without mistakes or shoddiness. So, when you take anything to the Lord in prayer, have faith that he is going to answer it well. When your life is in Jesus' hands, remember that everything is well with you. Jesus does everything well. He brings freshness into all areas of your life so everything you do turns out well and good. The crowd that saw the miracles he performed could say that. You should also be able to say that Jesus does everything well when you look at what he is doing in your life. With Jesus directing your life things are bound to turn out well no matter what you are going through. It is well.

Dig Out The Answer

Jesus does all things well, and because my life is in his hands, it is _____.

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: Father God, help me understand more and more that Jesus does all things well. Help me trust him in tough times that all is going to turn out just fine. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus does everything well.

Day 163

READ
Psalm
89:1-2

Sing Praises to God

Remember the story about the deaf and mute man Jesus healed? Good. Jesus healed his hearing and his speech. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, he heals our inner person, our hearts. It is the inner person in you which directs your actions. The inner person that is healed from the disease of rebelling against God will direct the ear to hear God and the tongue to speak and sing praises to God. When we do this, it means God has given us spiritual speech and spiritual hearing. We are not mute anymore. We are now able to tell others with joy about God and his saving power through Jesus, his Son. We are not deaf anymore. We are able to hear God speak to us through the Bible and other godly Christians. This is what today's passage is telling us to do. Every day God puts a new song in your heart. Why? So you will tell and sing about his love, that he never fails, and that he can always be trusted. Speak and sing about God's power, goodness, and love, while you have hearing and speech. If you don't have a voice, write a poem or a song about God's love and give out to family and friends. Let the whole world know how grateful you are to be God's child?

Dig Out The Answer

1. How do you get spiritual hearing and speech? 2. What are they given you for?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me sing and tell of your love, goodness, and faithfulness today in Jesus name.

Today's Wise Words:
Sing of the Lord's great love forever.

Day 164

READ
John 8:47

I belong to God

Jesus says in this verse that we hear what God says if we belong to him. Those who hear God understand his Word and obey it. Jesus told the Jews who did not believe his teachings and wanting to kill him that they belonged to the devil because they were doing exactly what the devil liked to do—being a liar and a murderer. Are you claiming to be a Christian because your parents are pastors, priests, missionaries, or elders in the church?

That was the same way some of the Jews saw themselves. They thought that because Abraham was their ancestor who obeyed God and received blessings from the Lord, they automatically were God's children even if they did not obey him. Jesus told them it did not work that way. They could hear the truth Jesus taught, see the good works he did, and observe his holy life, and yet still they hated him. Those who love the truth and accept it, love Jesus and obey God. Just as Jesus healed the physical deafness of the man we read about a few days ago, he also heals the spiritual deafness of the hearts of all who come to him to save them so they can hear God's Word, understand it, and obey it. What a wonderful Savior! Remember that the Holy Spirit keeps working in the hearts of those who reject the truth so they also can hear and come to Jesus to save them.

Dig Out The Answers

1. If you love truth you will _____ and obey God.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Holy Spirit for opening the ears of my heart to hear and believe the truth, and now I can obey.

Today's Wise Words: I hear God because he healed me of spiritual deafness and I belong to him.

Day 165

READ
Mark
6:45-52

Jesus Walks on Water

After Jesus fed the five thousand, he sent his disciples away on a boat to Bethsaida, and he himself went up on a mountain to pray. The disciples tried all night to row their boat, but a howling wind prevented them from making any progress. Jesus knew they were having problems so he went to help them. He did an amazing thing: he walked on the water. At first, the disciples thought it was a ghost and got very scared.

Often, we imagine scary things when we are afraid. Remember that because Jesus is always with us, a ghost or an evil spirit cannot do us any harm. Jesus told them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Jesus is telling you the same thing today, "Take courage." Did you ever hear of someone walking on a river or sea to help a boat or canoe of people in trouble? Only Jesus could. Jesus has power over nature—sea, rivers, mountains, wind, thunderstorm, lightning, and everything in nature you can think of. When you go swimming or fishing in the lake or sea, Jesus is with you. When you go mountain climbing or skiing, Jesus is with you. When you go farming, hunting, or camping in the woods or forest, Jesus is with you. So if you run into a problem, call on him, and he will find his own way to help you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do here to show that he has power over nature?
2. What does Jesus say to you any time you are in trouble?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Father for creating everything in the world by your Word, and that Jesus is the Word and created it all with you, and he has complete power over the universe. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus has power over the winds.

Day 166

Jesus' Authority Over the Storm

READ
Matthew 8:23-27

Jesus and his disciples were in a boat again. An angry storm swept over the boat. Well, it looked like they were about to drown. The disciples were very afraid. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up. They said, "Lord save us. We're going to drown." Jesus got up and commanded the winds and the waves to be calm. And it was so. What a Savior! Jesus shows again in today's story that everything in nature is under his control. All nature has to obey him because he created them. You also can call out to Jesus if you or the people in your village, town, or city, find yourselves in a flood, monsoon rains, a tornado, a hurricane, mud slides, tsunami, avalanche, on a stormy sea, earthquakes, or huge holes that open up in the ground suddenly. He has promised to help when you call to him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the disciples do when they found themselves caught in a furious storm?
2. What do you do when faced with a problem?
3. What did Jesus do when they called to him? What does that teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus has power over the winds and waves. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is able to save me in a storm.

Day 167

READ
Luke 9:37-43

A Miracle for a Little Boy

One day, a man brought his only son to Jesus' disciples to heal him. The boy was suffering from an unusual disease. An evil spirit attacked the boy, made him scream and foam on the mouth, then threw him in harm's way. Jesus' disciples could not heal the boy while Jesus was away. They did not have courage to use the faith Jesus had given them. You can use the faith Jesus has given you by speaking appropriate verses in the Bible to situations you face. For example, you can say this scripture, "Trust in God," to yourself when you are facing a difficult situation and it will make you confident. When Jesus arrived, he told the evil spirit to leave the boy. The evil spirit obeyed Jesus and left the boy immediately. The little boy was well again. There are evil spirits in this world, which sometimes make people sick, but Jesus has power over them. Evil spirits or demons are fallen angels that work with the devil who is also called Satan. All they do is evil. Ghosts are evils spirits and not the spirits of relatives or friends who are dead. When you feel afraid in the night, or when you feel evil presence around you, which sometimes happens, call out to Jesus and say, "Jesus, deliver me from this evil presence," and they will leave immediately, as it happened in today's story.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why couldn't the disciples heal the boy attacked by the evil spirit? 2. What did Jesus do to heal the boy?
3. What does that teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Father, deliver me from the fear and power of evil spirits, demons, or ghosts in Jesus' name.

Today's Wise Words: Evil spirits obey Jesus.

Day 168

Jesus Casts Out a Mute Demon

READ
Luke 11:14-20

Jesus drove out a demon from a man who was mute. The evil spirit or demon in the man made him lose his speech. He couldn't speak. Just as in yesterday's story, Jesus told the demon to leave the man, and it did. What an amazing Savior Jesus is! Evil spirits can make people deaf, blind, unable to talk (mute), and can cause other diseases. And here again, the Jews, who hated Jesus, accused him of using the power of a more powerful demon called Beelzebub, to cast the mute demon out of the man. You know, there are witch doctors, fetish priests, and spiritualists who use evil powers to cast demons out of people. And people from whom such demons are cast out are not really set free. Their situation is made worse because a more powerful demon takes charge of their lives. It is magic and witchcraft, which God warns us not to take part in. Only Jesus, the True One, who is God himself, is able to cast evil spirits out of people and truly set them free because he has complete power over them. Jesus uses Christians today to drive out demons from people so they can live for God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why couldn't the man in today's story talk?
2. What did Jesus do to heal him?
3. What does this teach you about Jesus' power?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you God that Jesus drove out demons that made people sick, and he still does today. I ask you to touch and heal all who are mute. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus has complete power over fallen angels (demons) because he created them.

Day 169

A Woman Finds Jesus' Hideout

READ
Mark
7:24-26

Here is another story that shows Jesus' power over evil spirits. Jesus had gone to a place where he could be alone and probably have time to teach his disciples. But Jesus couldn't keep that secret for long. Before he knew it, a certain woman had found out, and there she was, kneeling and begging Jesus to come drive a demon out of her daughter. Only Jesus can drive demons out of people. Jesus is more powerful than all the evil and evil spirits in the world. The woman who came to Jesus knew for certain that Jesus was able to drive out the demon from her daughter. Do you also know for certain that Jesus is able to help you no matter how difficult a problem you bring to him? When we come to Jesus with a problem, we must believe with all our hearts that he is able to do what we ask. Jesus is the boss over everything in the world—what we can see, and what we can't see, because he created everything. Colossians 1:15 &16 says *"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him."* Hallelujah!

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the woman come to beg Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Father that Jesus is everywhere since the day he rose from the grave, and I don't have to go looking for him to help me. I just have to pray.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is only a prayer away.

Day 170

The Faith of the Gentile Woman

READ
Mark
7:27-28

This is what Jesus said to the woman who came begging him to drive away an evil spirit from her daughter. Jesus said to the woman, "*the children must first be fed. It isn't right to take away their food and feed it to dogs.*" You are wondering what Jesus meant by that. The *children* Jesus was referring to are the Israelites, also called Jews. Why did Jesus refer to the Jews as God's children? God chose the Jews, taught them his laws and his ways. For a long time, only the Jews knew what God is like—his works, his character, his laws or commandments (Psalm 147:19-20). Many came to learn about God through the Jews. The rest of the people in the world are called Gentiles. The *dogs* in Jesus' answer refer to the Gentiles who did not know the true God, until later. Jesus is not calling the Gentiles dogs. He was only using that as an expression. Jesus loves us all, whether Jews or Gentiles. Jesus was only testing the faith of the Gentile woman who came begging him to drive a demon from her daughter. The woman refused to be put off, and she replied, "*but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.*" What did the Gentile woman mean by that? She meant that through the Jews, the Gentiles would also be blessed with miracles. This Gentile woman had faith that Jesus, who was a Jew, had come to bless both Jews and Gentiles together. He was not only going to feed the *children* and leave the *dogs*. I am sure many times you've dropped food to the cat or dog under the dining table. By doing that you are blessing your pet with food. The woman's answer showed that she had faith in Jesus. Do you have faith in Jesus to do what you ask him in prayer, too?

My Prayer: God, help me know that, sometimes you may not answer my prayers right away because you want to test me to see whether I have faith in you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus loves both Jews and Gentiles.

Day 171

Jesus Casts a Demon Out of a Girl

READ
Mark
7:29-30

Today, we will finish the story about the woman who came begging Jesus to drive out a demon from her daughter. Yesterday, we read about the woman's faith in Jesus. She believed that Jesus came to save and bless both Jews and Gentiles. She had faith that even though she wasn't a Jew, Jesus was willing to bless her with a miracle, too. Jesus was so pleased that this Gentile woman had faith in him. He told her that because of her faith, her request had been granted; the demon had left her daughter. Do you notice that in this story the girl was not brought to Jesus? The girl was at home and not with the mother, and yet Jesus was able to drive the demon out. It teaches us a wonderful lesson about Jesus. Even though we do not see Jesus physically standing or sitting by us, he is able to do what we ask him in prayer. It doesn't matter how far away the person you are praying for is, Jesus is everywhere and has the power to do anything you ask him to do, anywhere in the world, according to his will.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did Jesus do what the woman asked for?
2. Which part of the story tells you Jesus can heal somebody far away from where you ask?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus can go anywhere in the world to help those I pray for. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus touches people I pray for even if they are far from me.

Day 172

Jesus Has Authority Over Death

READ
Matthew 9:18-19

A ruler came to Jesus to help him. His daughter had died. He wanted Jesus to bring her back to life. What faith the man had! He was sure that Jesus was the boss over death too. If Jesus told *death* to leave his daughter, *death* would have to obey, and his daughter would live again. Jesus got up immediately and went with him. How loving Jesus is! When we are faced with big problems, he helps us. Do you believe Jesus can bring a dead person back to life even in our day? Yes. Many miracles take place in so many parts of the world when the good news is preached. Many are healed and some who are dead are brought back to life. If Jesus can wake a dead person up, then you must trust him to take care of you, no matter what. He is the boss even over death. The lesson Jesus teaches by raising people from the dead is this: that should any of us who believe in him die physically, we need not worry because one day, he will raise us from the dead and we will live forever with him. Hallelujah!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the man ask Jesus' help for?
2. What did Jesus do? What does Jesus' action teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that you have power to bring the dead back to life. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God can bring the dead back to life.

Day 173

READ
Matthew 9:23-26

Dead Girl Brought to Life

Jesus went with the ruler all the way to his home. When they got to the house, there were people mourning for the girl. There were flute players and a big crowd. They were having a funeral ceremony. Jesus told them the girl was not dead, but only asleep. The crowd laughed at Jesus. The crowd didn't know that Jesus had power over death.

It happens to us, too. You may be facing a problem for which you are trusting Jesus. But then, others tell you Jesus can't help. We must not believe what people tell us about Jesus. Let's read the Bible and know what Jesus is able to do and trust him to help us with all our problems. Jesus put the crowd outside, took the girl by the hand, and voilà! She woke up! Jesus has power over death. Hallelujah! The news spread everywhere. So, you go spread the news, too—Jesus brings back the dead to life. If there seems to be a dead end to your challenges, trust Jesus as this man did in today's story, and you will see the power of God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Was Jesus able to bring the dead girl back to life?
2. What does that teach you about Jesus?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: I bring my challenges to you, Jesus, because you can bring dead things back to life. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Know that Jesus has complete power over death.

Day 174

READ
John 11:1-6

Lazarus Falls Sick

Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus were Jesus' close friends. Yes—Jesus made real good friends while here on earth. Jesus wants to be your friend, too. Jesus really loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. So when Lazarus fell ill, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus. Why do you think they sent for Jesus? They knew that Jesus was able to make him well. Yet, when Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus was sick, he did not go immediately. It makes you kind of wonder why. You'd think Jesus should have gone immediately, especially when it was such a close friend. Jesus knew that Lazarus would live again even if the sickness should kill him. Jesus knows everything. Jesus decided to wait because he wanted to bring glory to God. What does it mean—*to bring glory to God*? We bring glory to God when we obey him and not ourselves or the world. Jesus does not always answer our prayers immediately. Jesus waits for the right time to answer our prayers so all will see what a great, loving, and powerful God he is. So don't worry when God seems to keep long in answering some of your prayers. When he answers, you and all around you, will see what he has done. And this will let others come to know Jesus too. God's timing is the best.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why doesn't Jesus always answer prayers immediately?
2. What does it mean to bring glory to God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me trust you even if you don't answer my prayers as soon as I would like. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

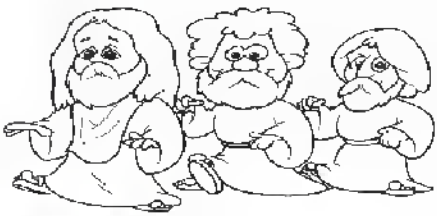
God answers prayer to bring glory to his name.

Day 175

Jesus Talks about Lazarus' Death

READ
John 11:11-15

At the right time, Jesus told his disciples about Lazarus. Lazarus was dead. But Jesus knew that he wasn't going to stay dead. Remember what Jesus said about Lazarus yesterday—"his sickness won't end in death." Jesus told his disciples that he was going to wake him up. But Lazarus was dead, so what did Jesus mean by what he said, "his sickness won't end in death"? Sometimes, that's how things look. They look dead. It seems like your sister would never share, or that friend is lost forever. Or maybe you find it difficult to pay attention in class or to study, so you think you will not make the mark for that high school or college, or maybe you are not doing so well at your workplace, or your supervisor is so mean to you. You think those things will never change. But trust Jesus, who is able to solve all problems. What Jesus says actually happens. Only Jesus can solve the difficult problems you face as you grow up and get older. Trust his word. If Jesus says something is not dead, believe it, it's not dead. Jesus brings dead situations to life.



Dig Out The Answer

1. Why should you trust what Jesus says about a problem rather than what others say?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Jesus, I thank you that your word always comes true. Speak your word into each of my challenges and I know all will be well with me.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus speaks to whatever situation I face when I ask him and gives me hope.

Day 176

Martha Meets Jesus on the Way

READ

John 11:17-22

We read that Jesus arrived in Bethany four days after Lazarus was buried. You'd think that Jesus was really too late. Probably the body of Lazarus was already going bad, beginning to rot. But Jesus is never late. Don't ever think that it is too late to ask Jesus for anything. Don't ever give up. Martha heard that Jesus was on his way. She went to meet him. She told Jesus that if he had been there, Lazarus wouldn't have died. Martha didn't understand this: God is still with us even when bad things happen to us. There are bad things in the world because people sin or keep doing wrong things. That's why Jesus came into the world. Jesus came into the world to save us, protect us, and get us out of sin and help us in our troubles. That's why you need to go to him to help you when you have a problem. And one day, Jesus is coming back to take us to heaven where we won't find any bad thing. Heaven is the happiest place, so look forward to it.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why are there bad things in the world?
2. Why did Jesus come into this bad world?
3. Is Jesus with you in this world where bad things happen everyday?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me understand that you are always with me, even when bad things happen to me. Help me not to be afraid. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus' answers to our prayers are never late.

Day 177

Jesus—the resurrection and the life

READ
John
11:23-27

Martha had told Jesus that if he had been there Lazarus would not have died. Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would be brought back to life. But Martha did not understand what Jesus was saying. She didn't believe that Jesus was going to raise Lazarus right away. She was thinking of a time in the future when God would raise all who are dead back to life. Jesus told her, "*I am* the *resurrection* and *the life*." Jesus is *the resurrection* means Jesus is the only one who brings the dead back to life. Jesus is *the life* means only Jesus gives eternal life. Jesus told her that all who put their faith in him would live forever. Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior. That's why he has power to raise the dead. That's why when you put your faith in him by accepting his gift to save you from your sin, you'll live forever with him in heaven. You will not be judged, found guilty, and thrown into the lake fire for refusing such a great gift. Martha knew that Jesus was the Son of God, our Savior. Jesus is the way to life.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Only Jesus can bring the dead back to ___.
2. Those who put their faith in Jesus will not _____ .
3. Did Martha believe Jesus to be the Son of God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God I thank you that Jesus is the way to life. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Believe Jesus when he says your problem has been solved.

Day 178

READ

John 11:32-37

Jesus Wept

Martha went and told her sister, Mary, that Jesus had come over. Mary went to see Jesus, weeping as she went. She fell at Jesus' feet repeating what Martha had said earlier—Lazarus wouldn't have died if he had been there. Jesus was touched by Mary's sadness. He wept along with her. Jesus was a good friend to Mary and Martha. He saw their sadness and wept along with them. Remember that Jesus weeps with you when you are sad, and he is happy with you when you are happy. That's what good friends do for each other. Best of all, Jesus is the friend who is always with you, and if you allow him to be your friend, you will also learn to become a very good and reliable friend to others. Are you being a good friend to your friends at school, church, neighborhood, or workplace? Would you be a good friend today? Jesus asked Martha and Mary to take him to the tomb where Lazarus had been buried. Guess what happened next?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to share in Mary and Martha's sadness?
2. What does Jesus' action teach you about friendship?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: Lord Jesus, teach me to be a good friend like you.

Memorize Proverbs 18:24 (MSG): "*Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family.*"

Today's Wise Words

Jesus is an a*lways friend* and weeps with me when I am sad.

Day 179

Lazarus Is Raised Back to Life

READ
John 11:38-44

A big miracle was about to take place in Bethany, but not in Martha and Mary's house. No! It was going to happen at the tomb where Lazarus had been buried. Jesus asked that the stone to the tomb be rolled away. This was a job for strong men. The job was done in no time. The crowd was anxious to see what would happen next. What was Jesus going to do? First, Jesus prayed to his Father, thanking him for what he was about to do through him. Jesus asked the Father to perform this miracle so those gathered there would know that he was the Son of God. It is good to thank God for the things we ask for even when we haven't received them yet. Jesus knew that the Father always heard him when he prayed. Jesus always knew what his Father wanted, and those were the only things he did. As a child of God, you too can know what God wants from you, by reading the Bible daily. When you know what God wants, you can pray and receive answers. Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." And just like that, Lazarus walked out of the grave into the open. Praise the Lord! Jesus has power over death!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What was the first thing Jesus said in his prayer?
2. What should you also do whenever you go to God in prayer?
3. Did the Father listen to Jesus, and what happened?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to know what you want, and help me thank you when I pray, in Jesus' name.

Today's Wise Words

Thank God for hearing prayers that he has not answered yet.

Day 180

READ
John
20:30-31

Why Did Jesus Perform all These Miracles?

Today's passage, which was written by John, one of Jesus' disciples who was very close to him, tells us why Jesus performed all those miracles we read about. Jesus performed many other miracles too, but not all of them were written down. Jesus performed all those miracles so we would believe that he is the Christ, the Son of God. And by believing in him, we would have life. What does it mean to have life? To have life is to be in the presence of God here on earth, and then forever in heaven. What is the presence of God? The presence of God is the Holy Spirit. When you ask Jesus to come into your life, he sends the Holy Spirit (the life of God) into you to give you power to love and obey God and live a life full of joy and purpose. People without Jesus are dead, separated from God, and awaiting punishment if they continue like this till they physically die. There is hope for all who are physically alive. They can still accept Jesus today and begin a good life here on earth and continue later in heaven when their bodies die. When Jesus comes a second time, all Christians will be raised from the dead with perfect and gorgeous bodies that will never die. Without these glorious bodies no one can live in the new earth or heaven. The Holy Spirit in you is like the seed of a plant buried in you, and this seed will come into full bloom as a glorious body when Christ comes a second time.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus perform all those miracles?
2. You have life if you believe _____ .

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Jesus, I thank you that you are the Son of God and because I believe in you, I have life. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

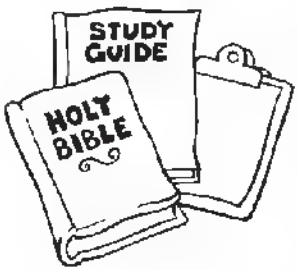
Miracles point people to Jesus, the Savior.

Day 181

READ
John
1:1-3

Jesus Is the Word

The many miracles Jesus performed showed that he was and still is the Christ, the Son of God. Yesterday, we also learned that by believing in him we would have life. John, the disciple who wrote the verses you are reading today, gives another reason why we ought to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus has always been with the Father before anything came to be. Jesus, also called "the WORD" is God. Everything that was made in the heavens and earth was made through him. This passage is telling us that Jesus is God and created all things. That's why he was able to perform all those miracles. That's why evil spirits obeyed him by leaving those they attacked. That's why death obeyed him and even dead people came back to life. We believe firmly that Jesus is truly God. Because he is God he is able to save us from our sins. Say thank you to Jesus!



Dig Out The Answers

1. Who made the heavens and the earth and all that there is? 2. Who is called truly God in today's passage?
3. Why is Jesus the only one able to save us?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior.

Memorize John 1:1-3 (NLT): *"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him."*

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is truly God.

Day 182

READ
John 1:4-5

Jesus Is Life

Yesterday we read that Jesus is truly God. That is why he is able to save us from our sins. Today, we learn another reason why Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of God. Christ means "anointed" for a special work. Jesus has life in him. A few days ago we talked about having life when you receive Jesus. Jesus is the only one who gives us life, because he is the only one who has life. The life of Jesus has power in it. This power changes us by removing all our wrong ideas about God and replacing them with a correct understanding of God, as we read the Bible with the help of his Holy Spirit. The life of Jesus has power in it to heal us and deliver us from evil. The life Jesus gives has light in it, too. Light helps us see. This light of Jesus, which comes into our lives helps us see right from wrong. When you have light, you will see through the lies and temptations in this dark world of sin and avoid them. You have light and life if you have Jesus in your heart.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does Jesus have that he alone can give to all who ask him?
2. How does the light of Jesus help us?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord Jesus, I have received your gift of light and life. Let them increase in me daily, so I will enjoy you more. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus is true life, he has life. and he gives life.

Day 183

READ
John 3:1-2

Jesus and Nicodemus

Nicodemus was a Pharisee (See Day 18). Nicodemus had a question he wanted to ask Jesus. So one night, he went to see Jesus. When you have a question about and for God, you read the Bible and pray and talk to godly Christians. God uses the Bible to answer our questions. Nicodemus believed Jesus was sent from God, and he said so. Why did he believe that? He'd heard Jesus teach and heal probably at the temple a few days earlier (John 2). Nicodemus was sure that only a man sent from God could teach with such authority and heal. When we read in the gospels about the many miracles Jesus performed, we also believe that God sent him into the world just as Nicodemus believed. When we look at the good character of other Christians, this also helps us to believe in Jesus. Jesus changes people. And Nicodemus was about to have a complete heart change. The change in people's character is the greatest miracle that follows our salvation. The mind of the Christian becomes more like that of Jesus' and we start acting like him, and this destroys the works of the devil, demons, and the bad influences from our culture on us (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Nicodemus believe that God sent Jesus? 2. Why is a changed mind the greatest miracle that follows our salvation?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Write down your own prayer about how Jesus changes your heart and mind and pray it.

Today's Wise Words

The Bible provides answers to questions we have about God.

Day 184

READ
John
3:3-8

You Must Be Born Again

We are continuing the story of Nicodemus and Jesus. Jesus told Nicodemus that no one could see the kingdom of God unless that person was "born again." What did Jesus mean by "born again"? If you invite Jesus to come into your heart he does come in. That makes a change in you, a very big change, like being born all over again. What happens is that your life is completely changed: in the way you see sin and the way you see God. Your little sins are no more little jokes. They are keeping you away from a holy God and they are actually nasty and ugly and hurting people around you. You suddenly realize that you do good things out of selfish love. Some religions encourage people to do good works so God can use that to save them on Judgement Day. But we read in Isaiah 64:6 that God calls all our good works filthy rags so they cannot save us. God had promised to send the Jews the Messiah and so many were looking forward to his arrival (Isaiah 9:6-7). But only those who actually trusted in God's promise and not the rules they followed to save them, recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he came, and they were drawn to him, as Nicodemus was, and accepted him as their Savior.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does it mean to be born again?
2. Are you born again? How do you know?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Make up your own prayer.

Memorize John 3:3 (NIV): "*Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'*"

Today's Wise Words: To be "born again" is to ask Jesus to come into your heart and give you a new start.

Day 185

Parable of the Sower Illustrated

READ
Matthew 13:1-8

The Parables

Parables were stories Jesus told to teach us great spiritual lessons.

Dig Out The Answer

Look at the hearts in the picture. Which one would be yours—the road, the rocky ground, the thorn bushes, or the good soil?

My Prayer: God, make my heart good soil for your Word to grow, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is the Sower.

Day 186

READ
Matthew 13:18-19

Parable of the Sower—the path

Jesus explains the meaning of the parable you read yesterday. Jesus said the seed the farmer scattered is the Word of God. The Word of God is all that God says in the Bible. Do you remember the first seed fell on the path or along the road? The path or road stands for a certain kind of people: those who don't pay attention to God's word. The birds stand for the devil. When people hear God's Word, that Jesus has come to die to save us from sin, and they don't understand it, the devil snatches it away from them and they lose the opportunity to think through it. How does the devil do this? People who do not pay attention to what God says are usually more concerned about other things. Instead of paying attention to the most important thing in the world, that is, their relationship with God, they put things which should be second in their lives first: getting ahead in school, progress at work, friends, family or marriage, or making a big name in society. Jesus does not give up on such people. Jesus is still using Christians to preach the Good News, hoping that they will hear and understand. We must pray for such people to pay attention to what they hear about Jesus so they will be saved. Hearing the truth about Jesus and believing it is the only way to the kingdom of God. Do you pay attention to what you read in the Bible so you can understand it and obey it? Pray you do that everyday.

Dig Out The answers

1. The seed is the _____.
2. The birds stand for _____.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help all these people who hear your Word to understand and give their lives to Jesus.

Today's Wise Words

Watch out! The devil steals God's Word from people's hearts.

Day 187

READ
Matthew 13:20-21

Rocky Ground

Jesus describes another group of people. Remember the seeds that fell on rocky places, which quickly grew up but the sun scorched and killed? Right. The rocky places stand for people who happily accept the Word of God, but stop believing when they have problems, or realize how much they have to give up to follow Jesus. Have you sincerely asked Jesus into your life? If so, Jesus wants you to hold firm to him even when friends make fun of you at school, at work, or in your neighborhood. It is always best to talk to Jesus about your fears. Trust him to help you when in trouble. We don't stop trusting Jesus just because we have a problem. Whether you are a Christian or not, you will face problems in this world. But the good news for Christians is that we always get supernatural help from God. The faith the Holy Spirit gave you to trust Jesus to save you from sin is the same faith that helps you every day to trust Jesus to help you in all your challenges. So those who turn away from Jesus *forever* when trouble comes prove they did not receive a saving faith from the Holy Spirit when they first believed. Someone who has truly been saved from sin will never stop following Jesus. Sometimes, they may have doubts for a period, but they always bounce back to follow Jesus. Proverbs 24:16 says: *"The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked."* Jesus also assured us in John 6:39, *"And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day."*

Dig Out The Answers

1. Is it possible for someone who is truly saved from sin to stop trusting Jesus for the rest of his or her life? Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned and pray it.

Today's Wise Words

Trust Jesus as Lord and Savior to the very end.

Day 188

READ
Matthew 13:22

Thorn Bushes

The seeds that fell in the thorn bushes describe another group of people. These are people who hear the Word of God and believe immediately, but they don't believe with all their hearts. How do you know? Jesus tells us such people stop trusting him as Lord and Saviour because they want to get rich or because they are poor. Jesus wants us to trust him as both Lord and Savior whether we get richer or poorer. Jesus died for both the rich and the poor. Only Jesus can fix the problems a rich kid or family may have, or the different problems a poor kid or family may have. We should never say that because Jesus is not helping us the way we want him to, he is no more our Savior and Lord. That will be a foolish thing to do. Jesus has saved us, and is preparing a wonderful home for us in heaven, where we will never need anything. Do you know that those who stop believing in Jesus still don't get the help they need, anyway. The ways in which people in the world help you will not bring glory to God. Many people have brought untold hardships into their lives by seeking help from people who don't fear God and despise Christians. It is better to trust Jesus, no matter what. He is able to help you now and bring you to heaven later. Your faith is more precious than gold (1 Peter 1:7).

Dig Out The Answers

1. Do you stop trusting Jesus because you are poor?
2. Jesus always solves problems the best way, so it's best to ___ him every day.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about the problems both poor and rich Christians have and ask God to help them.

Today's Wise Words: I'll trust Jesus with my big needs.

Day 189

READ
Matthew 13:23

Good Soil

Jesus describes the last group of people as good soil. Every one of us should like to be in this group. The seeds, which fell on good soil are those who hear the Word of God, understand it and bear fruit. Every true believer or Christian bears fruit. What kind of fruit do they bear? The fruit a Christian bears is called the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Holy Spirit comes and lives in all who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit then helps us do what is good and pleasing to God. 2 Peter 1:8 says that *"The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* To know Jesus more and more everyday, you must bear fruit, that is, be productive, then God can use you to bless others. The more we obey the Holy Spirit, the more we bear fruit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. The good soil are those who hear God's Word, understand it and _____ fruit.

2. List the fruit of the Holy Spirit. 3. How do you bear more fruit?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Memorize Galatians 5: 22 & 23 (NLT): *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"*

Today's Wise Words

Those who understand God's Word bear lots of fruit.

Day 190

Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

READ
Luke 18:9-13

This story talks about two men who went to pray in the Temple. The tax collector is the 'good soil' that Jesus talked about in the parable of the Sower. The Pharisee is like the 'rocky ground' in that same parable. Why is that so? The tax collector understood that he was a sinner who needed salvation. No one can come to Jesus unless he understands that he is a sinner who needs Jesus to save him. The Pharisee thought he was good enough and didn't need salvation. He was telling God about all the good things he usually did. Such a person will not come to Jesus. Such people do not understand the Word of God. They do not understand that good works cannot bring them into the kingdom of God unless they give their lives to Jesus. Pray that God will help your relatives and friends who are not saved to understand that they are sinners and need Jesus to save them from their sins.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is the 'good soil' in today's story?
2. The tax collector's heart is like 'good soil' because he realized he was a sinner who needed to .....
3. Who is the 'rocky ground' in today's story? The Pharisee's heart is like 'rocky ground' because he thought his __ __ would bring him into God's kingdom.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you for helping me understand that I am a sinner who needs to come to Jesus, so I can be part of your kingdom. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

I must understand I am a sinner who needs Christ to save me.

Day 191

READ
Luke 18:14

The Prayer God Hears

Jesus said that the tax collector's prayer was heard and not the Pharisee's. When we accept that we are sinners who need Jesus, God hears our prayer. The tax collector depended on God to save him. He was humble. The Pharisee's prayer was not heard, why? The Pharisee depended on his own good works to save him. He didn't depend on God's goodness. He was proud of the good things he usually did. But, do you know God says all our good works are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6)? The good things we do will never bring us into the kingdom of God. Don't go to God boasting about the great things you do. Like the tax collector, everybody in the world has to be washed in the blood of Jesus. Your sins must be forgiven and then you can be a member of God's kingdom. The tax collector went home "justified" means, God had forgiven all his sins, and he had become righteous before God. Are your sins forgiven too? Then know that God hears your prayers. But the prayers of hypocrites like the Pharisee in today's story are not answered.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Why was the prayer of the tax collector answered?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you my sins are forgiven through Jesus, and I am now justified before you. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

God shows favor to the humble.

Day 192

READ
Matthew 19:16-22

The Rich Young Man

The story is about a rich young man. This rich young man came to Jesus with a question. He wanted to know what good deeds he had to do so he could have eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the commandments. But the rich young man responded that he had kept all the commandments. This rich man believed that his own good works could save him. He was being self-righteous like lots of people in the world. So Jesus told him to go sell all that he had and give to the poor. Did he do that? No! He was very rich and didn't want to part with his riches. His riches and self-righteousness prevented him from entering the kingdom of God. This rich young man's heart is like the thorn bushes we talked about in the parable of the Sower. When he realized how much it would cost him to follow Jesus, he went away. To follow Jesus, you must be ready and willing to allow the Holy Spirit to make big changes to your life. Are you willing? Praise God for that and trust Jesus every step of the way. None of us would want to be like this rich young man. He would rather be rich here on earth, die, and go to the lake of fire and suffer forever. Is that wise? No! When we make Jesus our Lord and Savior, he provides all we need at the right times. You have to trust Jesus to do that for you. The rich man couldn't trust Jesus to meet his needs if he gave everything he had to the poor. And yet Jesus owns everything!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What kept the young man from following Jesus?
2. What does that teach you about following Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write it down.

My Prayer: God, help the rich people of the world to depend on Jesus to save them from their sins. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Riches cannot save.

Day 193

READ
Matthew
13:24-30

Wheat and Weeds Illustrated

Dig Out The Answers

1. Arrange the illustrations above in the order in which the story is told in the Bible. Use the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and so on to show the order.
2. Is wheat something good?
3. Are weeds something good? Are you wheat or weeds?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me continue to grow as a good seed, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

The good seed are those who belong to God's kingdom.

Day 194

READ
Matthew 13:36

The Disciples Were Good Students

We read the parable of the wheat and weeds yesterday and arranged the pictures in the order the story was narrated. Today, we read that Jesus' disciples came to ask him about the meaning of the parable. They didn't understand the story Jesus told about the wheat and weeds. Do you know that the disciples were good students? Yes, they were. They asked Jesus for explanation whenever they couldn't understand what he taught. Jesus wants all of us to be good students. Jesus wants us to ask questions when we read a story in the Bible we don't understand. You can ask your parents, or Sunday school teacher, or pastor, Bible study or small group leaders, or any mature Christian you know. It is good to want to understand what God's Word says. When we understand what God's Word says, we can obey it better.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why were Jesus' disciples good students?
2. How can you become a good student of God's Word too?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, give me boldness to ask questions about things I don't understand in the Bible, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Memorize Acts 17:11 (GWT): *"The people of Berea were more open-minded than the people of Thessalonica. They were very willing to receive God's message, and every day they carefully examined the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true."*

Today's Wise Words: Be a good student of God's Word.

Day 195

READ
Matthew 13:37-39

The Church on Earth Now

Today, Jesus explains the parable to his disciples. Jesus tells us that *he* is the one who comes and sows the good seed in his field. The field is the world in which we live. But the field can also be the church that you attend. The good seed are Christians. Remember that in the parable, an enemy comes and sows weeds while everyone is sleeping. You guessed correctly, the enemy is the devil. The devil comes and plants people who are not Christians in the church so they can cause trouble in the church. These people bear bad fruit. They are happy to say bad things behind people's backs. They delight in breaking up friendships. They like finding fault with others. These people only pretend to be Christians. People who pretend this way are called hypocrites. They are in the church to create problems. Christians should not behave this way in church or outside church. We are good seed because the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and so we bear good fruit. You will notice that the enemy only comes to plant bad seeds while everyone is sleeping. Jesus is warning Christians not to fall asleep, but be always watching their lives: reading the Bible, obeying, praying, and sharing. When we stop doing these things, it means we are sleeping and the enemy sees the opportunity to plant bad seeds. Be watchful!

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who comes to plant evil people in the church? Why?
2. Christians must be _____ . Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down lessons learned.

My Prayer: God, help me bear good fruit and be watchful because I have Jesus in my heart. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Not everybody who comes to church is a Christian.

Day 196

Jesus Cares for Hypocrites too

READ
Matthew 13:40-42

Do you remember in this parable Jesus told the servants to wait till harvest time to pull out the weeds? Jesus is very patient and loving. Jesus knows that if you tried pulling out the weeds, the wheat could be destroyed. Remember the weeds are the hypocrites and the wheat refers to Christians? Jesus cares for the weeds too, the hypocrites. A hypocrite may change and become a true Christian. Imagine that one day you go to a youth service, and the pastor decides to send home youth he thinks are fake Christians. Don't you think he could make a mistake and even send Christians away too? Since we cannot see into the hearts of others, Jesus wants us to wait until he comes again. Only Jesus sees into the hearts of all people. When he comes again, all the hypocrites in the church and the world will be thrown into the fiery furnace. It is important to follow Jesus with all your heart. Jesus even loves the hypocrite and wants him to be saved while there's time. Pray for hypocrites to become true Christians.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why can't you look for hypocrites and drive them out of your church?
2. Jesus loves _____ too, and wants to save them.
3. What happens to hypocrites who never change?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, change the hearts of all hypocrites in the church, so they'll come and know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus will one day send all hypocrites to the lake of fire.

Day 197

READ
Matthew 13:43

Wheat and Weeds

Jesus is still explaining the parable of the wheat and weeds. What happens to Christians when Jesus returns to earth? Christians are called 'the righteous' here. The blood of Jesus washed away all our sins when we gave our lives to him so God calls us righteous. At Jesus' second coming, the wheat (the wheat refers to the righteous) would have grown and produced lots of fruit—fruit of the Holy Spirit. Some non-Christians (who are the weeds) would have seen the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Christians. Seeing the love of God in Christians would have convinced them to give their lives to Christ, too. This is the power of God at work. The weeds could never crowd out the wheat in the field, rather some of the *weeds* would have become *wheat* at Jesus' second coming. Do you see the wisdom in waiting until harvest time to pull out the weeds? At the second coming of Christ, all Christians will end up in heaven with God. We will shine like the sun because we'll never grow old. How marvelous! It is good to look forward to heaven everyday. It cheers you up.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Where will the righteous go when Christ returns to earth?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: God, help me look forward to heaven every day, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

The righteous will shine like the sun in God's kingdom.

Day 198

READ
Matthew 13:44

The Hidden Treasure Illustrated

Dig Out The Answers

1. Arrange the illustrations above in the order in which the story is told in the Bible. Use the numbers 1, 2, 3 and so on to show the order.
2. What did the merchant do when he found the treasure?
3. What do you think is the greatest treasure in this life?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God for the gift of eternal life that is found in Jesus alone.

Today's Wise Words

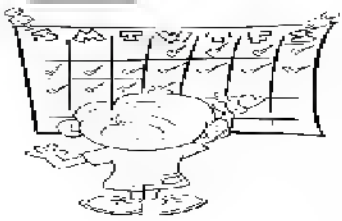
The greatest treasure is eternal life found in Jesus alone.

Day 199

Parable of the Hidden Treasure

READ
Matthew 13:44

How should you look at the world, now that you are part of God's kingdom? Today's story tells us how. A man found treasure hidden in a field. He sold everything he had so he could buy the field where the treasure was hidden. Jesus is the treasure hidden in the field. A treasure is something very special and expensive. Why is Jesus special and expensive? Jesus is special and expensive because he gives us eternal life. We get to start living forever right here on earth and continue in heaven when he returns the second time. When we come to know Jesus, it must mean everything to us. How do we live like Christ means everything to us? We show Jesus that he means everything to us by obeying him everyday. We talk to him more often in prayer. What do we have to give up? We quit living in sin or doing wrong things—being selfish, wanting every thing we see in the store, getting all the latest fashion, spending our allowance or income only on ourselves and the like. Think about all the things you need to give up so you will enjoy Jesus more and more.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is Jesus a treasure?
2. What makes Jesus special and expensive?
3. How do you show that Jesus is special and expensive to you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus is the greatest treasure. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is the greatest treasure.

Day 200

READ
Matthew
13:45-46

The Valuable Pearl Illustrated

Dig Out The Answer

What do you think is the pearl of great value?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus is the most important thing to me, just like the pearl of great value. Amen.

Memorize Philippians 3:8 (CEV): *"Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ."*

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is of very great value.

Day 201

READ
Matthew 13:45-46

Parable of the Valuable Pearl

What did the merchant go looking for? He went looking for pearls. Like the merchant, people are looking for something of great value that will make them happy and give them peace of mind. The merchant in the story found one pearl of very great value. He was overjoyed. He sold everything he had and bought it. In the same way, when people find Christ, they are overjoyed, and give up living in sin, enjoying it, or helping others to sin. Jesus is the greatest treasure in the whole world. When we come to know him, suddenly we realize that everything we are seeking to make us happy in this world is garbage compared to having Christ Jesus. Paul admitted this in his letter to the church in Philippians 3:8. Have you come to understand this since you came to Jesus. Do you understand that the greatest achievements, wealth, and fame is all garbage compared to knowing Jesus? Following Jesus is the most important thing in the world and nothing else we want or dream to be can be compared to it. Everything you do from the day you start following Jesus must have the approval of Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do we give up when we find Jesus?
2. List the things you must consider as garbage from henceforth.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me give up all the sins (list them) that trip me because I have found Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: I am overjoyed and count everything else as garbage compared to knowing Jesus.

Day 202

READ
Mark
10:17-22

The Rich Young Ruler

We are back to the story we read a while ago in the book of Matthew. The question we want to answer is this: what did Jesus ask the rich young man to give up, so he could have eternal life? His riches. As we have been discussing for the past few days, Jesus wants us to leave behind the ways of sin; the ways of the world, which include using bad, ugly, and wicked means to get rich, get ahead in school, be famous, accomplish great things, or even just to feed our poor families. It could even be laziness and self pity. For this rich young man, it was his riches. He put his faith in his riches to save him instead of trusting Jesus. Is something holding you back from giving your life to Christ completely? Maybe you don't want friends to laugh at you. Maybe you are afraid of what your family and friends will say and do to you. Jesus wants us to stop being afraid of people and follow him. We must trust Jesus alone to save us from sin and make us happy. Pray for those who don't want to give up friends, family, wealth, business connections, family name and status, or fame, to follow Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus tell the rich young man to do so he could have eternal life?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray that you will trust Jesus to take care of you till you die.

Today's Wise Words: Memorize Mark 8:36 (NIV)
"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

Day 203

Serving the Lord Is Never in Vain

READ
Matthew 19:27-28

Peter and the rest of the disciples had left their fishing and other businesses to follow Jesus. That was all they had, and that was how they made money to feed their families. Levi, for example, gave up his tax collecting business. Peter asked Jesus, "We have left everything to be your followers. What will we get?" Jesus promised his twelve disciples that they would sit on twelve thrones and reign with him when he comes back to reign on earth one day. Do you know Jesus is coming back to earth one day to reign as king? Jesus assured his disciples that they did not give up their fishing business for nothing. He was going to give them greater rewards. Did you ever read of Peter's or any of the disciples' families going hungry because the fathers worked for Jesus? No! Even here on earth Jesus supplied their needs. They would reign like kings with him one day. So, remember that Jesus will reward you much more than all you give up to follow him, no matter how small or big. And the greatest reward of those who obey Jesus here on earth is the peace of knowing that they do what he wants.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Peter and the other disciples give up in order to follow Jesus?
2. What did Jesus promise to give them in return?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you that Jesus will reward me for all I give up to follow him, starting here on earth. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus rewards all his followers.

Day 204

READ
Mark
10:29-31

Jesus Promises A Reward

We read this story yesterday in Matthew. Mark tells us what Jesus told Peter he'd give to all who follow him. Some people have to give up houses so they can become followers of Christ. Some have to give up mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and all that they own to follow Jesus. Do you know in certain countries when you decide to follow Jesus your parents stop taking care of you? Some are driven away from their communities. They lose their houses, their children and their jobs. But Jesus has promised to give them all these back here in this world and more when he brings them to heaven. Heaven is a real place. And the greatest reward of all is eternal life. All who follow Jesus will live forever, enjoying their many rewards. When Christians are driven away from their homes, Jesus gives them people who are able to love them like real mothers, or fathers, or children. God even blesses them with new jobs so they can build new houses. So, if you lose a friend or a job because you are a Christian, trust Jesus to give you a better one.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus promise to give all who give up things to follow him?
2. What is the most important reward of all?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Jesus for giving me eternal life, the greatest reward for following you. Amen.

Today's Wise Words . Jesus is able to give me back all that I lose for following him.

Day 205

READ
Matthew
18:23-27

The Forgiving King Illustrated

Dig Out The Answers

1. Arrange the illustrations above in the order in which the story is told in the Bible. Use the numbers 1, 2, 3 and so on to show the order.
2. Identify the king and servant in the picture.
3. Why is the servant down on his knees before the king? 4. What did the king do?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Memorize Micah 7:18a (MSG)
"Where is the god who can compare with you—wiping the slate clean of guilt, turning a blind eye, a deaf ear, to the past sins of your purged and precious people."

Day 206

READ
Matthew 18:23-27

The Forgiving King

Yesterday, we arranged the parable of the forgiving king as it read in the Bible. A servant of a king owed him lots of money. Money you owe someone is called debt. The servant in the story owed the king about twelve million dollars. That was a lot of money. He couldn't pay the king. The king decided to sell the servant, his wife, and children to pay the debt. But the servant begged him. You know what the king did? He forgave the man all twelve million dollars. That's lots of money to forgive. In the same way, God has forgiven all of our many sins, because we asked Jesus to come into our lives. The blood of Jesus paid the debt we owed God because of our sin. God is very kind and merciful.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who forgives the many, many sins we commit?
2. Who paid the debt we owed God? How did Jesus pay for the debt?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that you are the king who forgives all my sins, because Jesus paid for them by dying on the cross. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God is the forgiving King.

Day 207

The Unmerciful Servant Illustrated

READ
Matthew 18:28-30

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is the forgiven servant doing to the other servant?
2. Is it a good thing? Why is it a bad thing?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Memorize Proverbs 20:11 (NLT).
"Even children are known by the way they act, whether their conduct is pure, and whether it is right."

Day 208

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

READ
Matthew 18:28-30

Yesterday, we studied the illustrations of the unkind servant. You remember this servant's debt was cancelled though it was a very, very huge amount—twelve million dollars! Another servant owed this servant only about seventeen dollars. This servant grabbed the other servant who owed him by the neck. He choked him and threw him into prison even though he begged for mercy. The king had earlier forgiven this servant so much, yet he did not want to forgive only seventeen dollars. Sometimes, we forget how much God has forgiven us and refuse to forgive wrong things done to us. God wants us to remember how much he has forgiven us so we also will forgive others. The wrong and hurtful things we suffer from others are far less severe than how much we have wronged God. People are sinful so we get paid back in some measure what we also do to others. But God is holy and has never wronged anybody.

Dig Out The Answer

1. What does God want us to remember to help us forgive others?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me remember how much you have forgiven me so I can forgive those who wrong me, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Remember how much God has forgiven you.

Day 209

READ
Matthew 18:31-35

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

The news couldn't have traveled any faster! Could have been the shock and anger the other servants felt. Ill-treatment for only seventeen dollars! Give us a break. What about your twelve million dollars that was so graciously cancelled? What did the king do? He threw the unmerciful servant in jail to be tortured. In the same way, God will punish those who refuse to forgive others of wrongs done to them. Take note—there's a kind of torture Christians experience when we choose not to forgive wrongs done to us. You notice that you become angry, bitter, unhappy, depressed, worked-up at getting even, and you have all kinds of unkind feelings every time you see or think of someone you have not forgiven. These are not good feelings. They take away your joy, peace and prosperity that you enjoy in the Lord, and instead you torture yourself with all these bad feelings. Don't torture yourself. Forgive. And No. You will never go to hell if you have Jesus in your heart. The 'unmerciful servants' are people who do not accept the debt Christ paid on the cross to save them from their sins. They do not understand that Jesus died to pay all their debt, so they are not able to forgive others and choose to remain enemies of God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. The "unmerciful servant" stands for people who do not _____ .
2. Jesus forgave us our sins so we can _____ .

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus paid all my debts on the cross. Help me forgive others. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus paid my debt of sin on the cross.

Day 210

READ
Luke 10:30-35

The Good Samaritan Illustrated

Dig Out The Answers

1. Imagine you are a pastor in a hurry to go preach at church, would you stop to help somebody wounded by the roadside? Remember the congregation is waiting!
2. Imagine you are a helper at your church. You help set up the rooms for Sunday school. Your teacher depends on you to do this every Sunday. Would you stop on your way to church to help someone wounded by the roadside?
3. Imagine you meet a wounded person lying by the roadside who happens to be the one person that hates you in school or your workplace. Would you help him?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Memorize Proverbs 14:21a (MSG).
"It's criminal to ignore a neighbor in need."

Day 211

Parable Of The Good Samaritan-1

READ
Luke 10:30-35

We read this story yesterday. Remember! Jesus told this parable to show us how to be good neighbors. A neighbor is anybody you can help. A man lay half dead on the road. He'd been beaten by robbers and stripped naked. A priest came by, but didn't help him. So did a temple helper, also called a Levite. But, look who came to help him—a Samaritan. Do you know the wounded man on the road was a Jew? The priest and the Levite were also Jews. Did they help their fellow Jew? No! But the Samaritan did. Do you remember that Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other? See Days 29 – 40. And yet this Samaritan was kind to the wounded Jew. Sometimes, we all behave like the Priest and the Levite in this story. We think that worshipping God only means following church rules, attending church gatherings, and serving there. The priest and Levite were more concerned about following rules than showing kindness to a man in need (Leviticus 21:1). But that should not be, as Jesus shows in today's story. Christians worship God in everything we do: befriending new people at church and in your neighborhood, helping others at school or at work etc. Jesus shows by this parable that we worship God when we help those in need, especially when the time does not suit us. Jesus has given Christians power through the Holy Spirit to be good neighbors.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is your neighbor?
2. Who gives you power to be a good neighbor?
3. List ways Christians can be good neighbors.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words
Help those in need, whatever their background.

Day 212

Parable of the Good Samaritan-2

READ
Luke 10:36-37

When Jesus finished the story, he asked the lawyer, "Which of these three men was a good neighbor to the wounded man?" You know the answer—the Samaritan, of course. Jesus told the lawyer who had asked the question to go and do the same. Jesus called the lawyers and Pharisees, "the wise and intelligent who didn't know the things of God," (Luke 10:21) with serious head injuries and sick hearts. Such people continue to invite punishment on themselves because they insist on rebelling against God (Isaiah). Earlier in the story the lawyer had asked Jesus what he needed to do to have eternal life (Luke 10: 5 - 29). Jesus had agreed with his answer: to love God and to love your neighbor. Instead of admitting to Jesus that he had not loved God and others perfectly every time, he covered up his pride and rather asked Jesus: who is my neighbor? Not one person in the world could love God and people every moment of his or her life. Only Jesus did. Jesus told him the story of the Good Samaritan to show that though we are the enemies of God (similar to the intense hatred between Jews and Samaritans), like the Good Samaritan, he came to love us by dying for us. Jesus does not want us looking up to *'those who don't know the things of God'* like the Pharisees and priests in his time, or priests and leaders of various religions to save us from sin, but to him alone. People who have received God's love by accepting Jesus will surely share this love with others, as the Good Samaritan did in the parable.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How does the story of the Good Samaritan compare to what Jesus did for us to save us from sin?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words

I can love my neighbor when I receive God's love into my life.

Day 213

The Widow and the Judge Illustrated

READ
Luke
18:1-8

Dig Out The Answers

1. Identify the judge and the widow in the illustrations.
2. Did the judge in the story fear God?
3. Why did the woman have to go many times to the judge?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Memorize Luke 18:1 (NIV): *"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."*

Today's Wise Words: God is a just judge.

Day 214

The Widow and the Wicked Judge

READ
Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told this parable to teach a lesson about prayer, especially as we wait for him to return to judge the world. Many Christians suffer a lot at the hands of those who do not believe Jesus to be the Son of God: they are not promoted at work, their teachers give them bad marks at school, neighbors do not include them in events, and in some countries they only qualify to do menial jobs (labourers). Christians going through such difficult times need to pray a lot asking God to help them, and they also need to be patient as they wait for answers. Are you living in such a country? Keep praying and trusting God because sometimes it could take a long time before you get the freedom to worship as you choose. The widow in today's story needed help, so she went to see the judge. A judge works in court where he settles problems between people. This judge did not fear God and didn't care about anybody. The woman had to go to him many times. "This woman will wear me out," the wicked judge could not stand her regular visits anymore. And so, he decided to help her. God is not like this bad judge. God is a good judge, so when you go to him, have faith that he will answer your prayer the best time he chooses. He will give you patience to wait, as well as wisdom to handle every situation, even ones with friends or family. So keep praying about your needs, and don't be discouraged. God cares about you and will always come to your aid quickly. All who belong to the kingdom of God must trust God to answer their prayers.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is it important to pray while waiting for Jesus to return?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

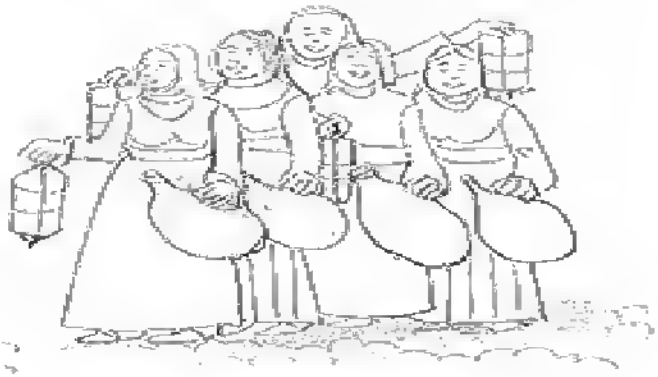
My Prayer: God, I know you are a good judge and ever ready to help me, as I wait for Jesus to return. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God cares about you.

Day 215

READ
Matthew
25:1-5

Parable of the Ten Virgins Illustrated



Dig Out The Answers

1. Identify the wise and foolish virgins in the illustrations above.
2. Why were the five virgins called foolish? Why were the other five called wise?
3. What do you suppose the oil means?

Note This: The Holy Spirit is like the oil in the lamp. You are wise if the Holy Spirit lives in you.

My Prayer: God, I thank you I have the Holy Spirit living in me.

Today's Wise Words

Wise people have the Holy Spirit living in them.

Day 216

READ
Matthew 25:6-10

Parable of the Ten Virgins

This parable teaches Christians to look forward to Jesus' second coming. Jesus is coming back to earth one day, but nobody knows when. Yesterday, we studied the illustrations about the ten virgins. As you read yesterday, the ten virgins were waiting to meet the bridegroom so they could join him at the wedding banquet. A bridegroom is the man who marries a woman (the bride) at a wedding ceremony. The bridegroom came back at midnight. All ten virgins were asleep. Remember, there was no electricity at that time. People used lamps to see around at night. All ten virgins woke up from sleep. The wise virgins trimmed their lamps, because their lamps were still burning, and then they followed the bridegroom to the wedding banquet. The lamps of the foolish virgins had gone out. The wise advised them to go buy some oil. And by the time they got back, the door to the wedding banquet had been shut. They couldn't get in. In this story, Jesus is the bridegroom. The wise virgins are Christians. All Christians have the Holy Spirit, who is like the oil in the lamp. Jesus wants all Christians to look forward to his second coming. You do that by making your light shine. Remember, the lamps of the wise virgins kept burning, giving light throughout the night. We make our light shine by sharing the Good News and doing good to those who still belong to this dark world so they also can be saved from sin.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who or what do we need to keep our lamps burning?
2. How do we make our light shine as we wait for Jesus.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, let my light shine till Jesus comes back. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning.

Day 217

READ
Matthew 25:11-13

The Foolish Virgins

The door to the wedding banquet had been shut tight. The five foolish virgins couldn't get in. What a tragedy! The foolish virgins stand for people who go to church but never invite Jesus into their hearts. They will not make it to the great banquet that Jesus will be throwing for all Christians when he comes back. Jesus knows those who have the Holy Spirit in them, and only they will be allowed to the banquet in heaven. A banquet is a great party—a symbol for the time when all Christians will be gathered to Jesus when he comes back to judge the world. Would you want to be at the greatest of all parties? So, don't just go to church, make Jesus your Lord and Savior! Those who have Jesus in their hearts are wise. He wants you to look forward to his second coming by sharing the Good News and doing good deeds. Good deeds like sharing the Good News, make us shine like lights in this dark world. Your light shines only when the Holy Spirit lives in you. The Holy Spirit is like the oil in the lamp. Is your lamp burning?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Those who just go to church without inviting Jesus into their hearts are called ___ ___.
2. How do you become wise?
3. What happens to the foolish virgins when Jesus, the bridegroom, returns?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you that I'm going to be at the great banquet because I have Jesus in my heart.

Today's Wise Words: Look forward to Jesus' second coming by letting your light shine.

Day 218

READ
Matthew 25:14-18

Parable of the Talents Illustrated

Using the gifts God has given us

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do you suppose the man with the one talent should have done?
2. What are you supposed to do with the gifts God has given you?

Note This: God has given every Christian a talent to use. A talent is a gift.

My Prayer: God, help me use the gifts you have given me, in Jesus name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God has given me a talent.

Day 219

READ
Matthew 25:19-23

Parable of the Talents-1

Jesus told this parable to teach us that God has given everyone in this world an opportunity (the talent) to come to Jesus to save them. Remember, Jesus is the talent, the treasure, the pearl of great value. Everyone in the world is given an opportunity to hear the Good News. It could be many times; it could be few times, but everyone gets the opportunity. The master of those servants returned from his trip, as Jesus would one day return to earth to judge every one. He called his servants to hear what they did with the talents he gave them. The servants who received five and two talents each doubled their amounts. They received the Good News with joy, read the Bible, obeyed it, prayed with it, shared it, and made many disciples according to the ability given them by the Holy Spirit. That is how we make profit for Jesus. Have you seized the opportunity to be saved from sin as presented to you by the work of the Holy Spirit through the reading of the Bible or Christians? Good servants are genuine Christians who understand that saving souls is an urgent matter so they set to work immediately after they are saved, just as the two servants did in today's story. As you read in the story, the master gave different amounts to the servants. Likewise, God gives every Christian unique opportunities to share his or her faith according to his plan. Use yours, and do not complain about the opportunities others receive to promote Jesus and his work.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Today watch out for opportunities God brings your way to share the Good News and to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. 2. List the opportunities and how you used them when you come back from school or work today.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Make up your own prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Use the talents God has given me.

Day 220

READ
Matthew 25:24-30

Parable of the Talents-2

The servant with the one talent did not think well of his master even though the master was a good man. This attitude is typical of many who do not believe the Good News when they hear it. They use nasty words to describe Jesus, as the one-talent servant did. You know what happened to him? The master took away his one talent and gave it to the servant who now had ten talents. Likewise, when Jesus returns a second time, those who did nothing with the Good News they heard would have lost the opportunity to be saved from sin, and they will be thrown into the lake of fire. Christians who appreciate how loving and good God is will allow the Holy Spirit to use them to serve others. So how well you know and love God shows in how well you use the ability the Holy Spirit gives you to bear fruit and bring others to know Jesus. A sharp knife gets blunt, rusts, and breaks when not in use for a long time. It has become a good-for-nothing knife. It will only poison your food with rust if you use it. That's what happens to ungrateful people who would not receive the Good News. They replace Jesus, the true talent with a good-for-nothing one, which they use to spite God, to make themselves important, and bring about quarrels and fights. A good knife is always sharpened by its owner so it can do many more jobs. Likewise, God increases the faith of his good servants so they can be more useful, making many aware that Jesus is good and can save them from their sins and their problems.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why would you not want to be like the one-talent servant? 2. List the good things that happen when you use your gifts.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write down your prayer and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Don't lose your talent; use it.

Day 221

READ
Matthew
24:45-47

Parable of the Faithful Servant

This parable teaches us to work very hard as we wait for Jesus' second coming. If you believe Jesus is coming back soon, you'll want to get ready to meet him. Jesus wants us always to think and look forward to his second coming. The servant in today's story was faithful. He was the leader of the servants in his master's house, but he took good care of them. Do you know as a Christian you need to help other Christians know Jesus better? Every Christian is a leader in some way because we are to set good example to other Christians by the way we live just like the faithful servant in the story. How do you do that? When you read something from the Bible, talk over it with your Christian friends. You must pray for your Christian friends and help them when they are in need. This is how we take care of one another. When you do such things, and keep at them, you are being a faithful servant. Christians must be responsible for one another. Jesus is coming soon and we must prepare to meet him by helping each other grow in faith.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How do you get ready for Jesus' second coming?
2. Think of things you have learned from the Bible that you will start sharing with your Christian friends to get ready for Jesus' second coming.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me get ready for Jesus' second coming by taking care of my Christian friends: sharing your Word, prayers, and working along with them.

Today's Wise Words

I must help my Christian friends know Jesus better.

Day 222

READ
Matthew 24:48-51

Parable of the Wicked Servant

Jesus told this parable to teach us that there are people who claim to be Christians but are not looking forward to his second coming. They think it is taking forever for Jesus to come back so they stop believing that he is coming back at all. Such people are fake Christians just like the wicked servant in today's story. See how badly he treated his fellow servants and ate and drank with drunkards. There are priests, pastors, leaders and evangelists in churches just like the evil servant in today's story. They are in the church to make money, get power and fame. They abuse children, young men, widows, and women. They trick them into giving their moneys and properties to them. They scare them into doing all kinds of cruel things: drinking various concoctions, performing rituals like taking baths in the sea or rivers, chanting, and punish them for not keeping rules etc. They convince these unsuspecting people that their teaching is from the Bible and scare them they are under a curse if they disobey them. Watch out for such evil servants in churches and keep away from them. Don't listen to these evil servants. All true Christians believe that Jesus is coming back one day, even though no one knows when, and they show it by producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit and helping other Christians grow, not bullying them.

Dig Out The Answer

1. List some of the things evil servants in the church do? 2. What should you do about such people?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, keep me looking forward to Jesus' second coming by bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Today's Wise Words: Live to show Jesus is coming back.

Day 223

READ
Matthew 13:52

Parable of the House Owner

Today's parable teaches us to share God's word and talk about the things he does for us. Jesus compared his disciples to a good house owner. The *treasures* in the story refer to what we find in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, also called God's Word. The truths and lessons we discover in the Bible are a great treasure and we must share with others. A good house owner has both new and old *treasures* in his storeroom. If you have a storeroom in your house, you know there are usually both old and new things in there. The more we read God's Word, the more truths we discover for ourselves. Jesus wants us to hold on to the things we learned earlier as well as the truths we discover later. They are all God's Word and we must use them by obeying them. One day, you are probably going to teach and preach God's word like Paul, or sing gospel songs, or teach Sunday school. Maybe you are already involved in some of these ministries or tasks. For all of these ministries or tasks, you will need to know the Word of God, and it's good you are studying it right now. Live and learn!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What do the *treasures* in the story refer to?
2. What are we supposed to do with God's Word?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord help me discover new truths in the Bible and let me use the old ones I know. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Hold on to and share both old and new truths you discover in the Bible.

Day 224

The Growing Seed Illustrated

READ
Mark
4:26-29

Dig Out The Answers

1. Arrange the illustrations above in the order in which the story is told in the Bible. Use the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on to show the order.
2. Jesus compared the word of God to seed scattered on the ground. What do you think the ground is?
3. Did the man who scattered the seed do anything to make the seed sprout? What does that teach you?

Note This: The word of God grows in me to bear fruit by the power of the Holy Spirit.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that your Word changes me through the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

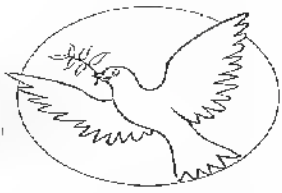
The Word of God in me grows and produces fruit.

Day 225

READ
Mark
4:26-29

Parable of the Growing Seed

The farmer in the story refers to Christians who spread the Good News, the seed. God expects every Christian to be busy telling others about Jesus every opportunity we



get. We should not worry about how people respond to the Good News we share with them, just as the farmer did nothing about the seed scattered. It is the work of God through the Holy Spirit to see to the growth of the seeds. You read that the seeds sprouted, grew, and produced grain. Then the farmer came and harvested. Harvesting is the responsibility of every Christian. Every Christian must bring those who come to believe in Jesus (the harvest) into the family of God, which is the church, and love them (1 Peter 2:1 & 2). The seed, the Word of God, in the hearts of Christians works in the same way. Nobody knows how the Word of God changes us and makes us bear fruit, but we see the good changes in our lives. The power in the Word of God is the Holy Spirit. We only have to trust the Word of God, then the Holy Spirit works in our lives and changes us. Just as the small seed became a plant bearing lots of grain, so would you also continue to grow in the Lord and bear much fruit. The Holy Spirit is doing this in your heart right now.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What are the responsibilities of Christians from the story?
2. What are the responsibilities of God the Holy Spirit?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.
My Prayer: Ask God to help you do the things you learned.

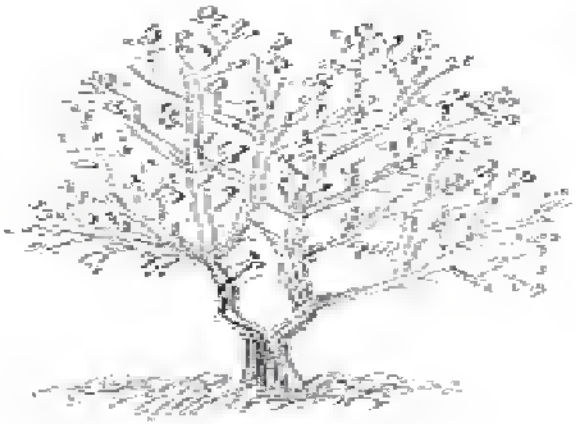
Today's Wise Words
The Holy Spirit is the power in the Word of God.

Day 226

READ
Mark
4:30-32

Parable of the Mustard Seed Illustrated

God's Kingdom On Earth Continues To Grow



Dig Out The Answers

1. What does Jesus compare the mustard seed to?
2. Do you think the kingdom of God is growing on earth?

Note This: The kingdom of God is growing on earth.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that your kingdom is growing here on earth, and I am glad that I am part of it because I have Jesus in my heart. Amen.

Memorize Matthew 16:18 (NLT): *"Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."*

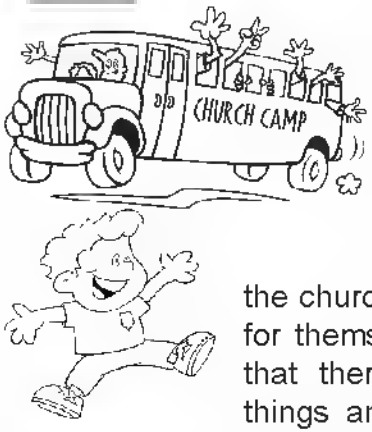
Today's Wise Words: The kingdom of God is growing.

Day 227

READ
Mark 4:30-32

Parable of the Mustard Seed

Jesus compared the kingdom of God to the smallest of seeds—the mustard seed. The mustard seed, though one of the smallest garden seeds, grows into a big tree. Do you know that the Christian church started with only a few hundreds of people? Today, you see many Christians scattered all over the world. But Jesus also warns us that, as the church grows the devil will send evil but important people in society into the church. These evil but important people would make the church famous, and many people will join it like a popular club. But they would also bring wrong teachings, denying that Jesus is the Son of God and the only way by which we are saved from sin. They will bring ideas from idol worship into the church and use the church to make money for themselves. Look around and you will see that there are many churches doing these things and even allowing men to marry men and women to marry women. You may pray for fake Christians and churches but, separate yourselves from them and their evil teaching. God is all-powerful and will continue to save those who come to him if they truly accept Jesus. And his kingdom will continue to grow on earth. You must be glad to be part of this kingdom.



Dig Out The Answer

1. What happens to God's kingdom on earth as it grows?
2. What should you do about fake Christian churches.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God his kingdom is growing on earth.

Today's Wise Words: The kingdom of God is the greatest.

Day 228

READ
Matthew 18:10

Children Are Special

Jesus taught his disciples that the greatest in the kingdom of heaven would have to be humble and completely depend on God like a little child who is helpless without a parent. He was answering their question about who would be the greatest in the kingdom. Every Christian, whether young or old, are children in God's kingdom (Matthew 18:1 - 6). Isn't this great? And all God's children have angels of God watching over them. These angels stand in the presence of God, waiting to do what God commands them to do for each child. So whenever you are afraid or sad, call to God, and he will quickly send you help. As Christians, we must be careful not to look down on new Christians, who like new babies (1 Peter 2:2), are now learning about Jesus and may not know a whole lot. We must patiently teach them. Every Christian is special to God and there are angels waiting to protect and sometimes punish those who would want to harm them and make them feel small. God loves all his children dearly, and leaders and teachers in the church especially must love and protect them too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who are the children Jesus is referring to?
2. What special favour does God's children enjoy?
3. How should leaders and teachers in the church treat new or poor Christians.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that my angels in heaven see your face, ready to obey what you tell them to do for me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

I have angels standing in God's presence in heaven.

Day 229

READ
Matthew 18:12-14

Parable of the Lost Sheep Illustrated

Dig Out The Answer

1. What do you do when you lose something you cherish?
2. Who is the shepherd and what does he cherish?
3. Who should you cherish

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

Note This: Once you become a child of God, Jesus makes sure you don't wander away forever.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus will look for me when I wander away. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: I am precious to Jesus.

Day 230

READ
Matthew 18:12-14

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Jesus continued to teach how important his little children are to the kingdom. Remember, we said before that little children in the kingdom are new Christians. See how the shepherd went looking for the one sheep that got lost. It's the same way Jesus goes looking for you when you wander away into sin. Do you know that sin or wrongdoing keeps us away from Jesus? It's just like wandering away. Even though we may do wrong things, we are still Christians, and Jesus loves us the same. When we keep doing wrong things over and over again we lose our joy. Sin steals our joy. We are not happy as children of God. Jesus wants us to be happy, so he lets the Holy Spirit speak into our hearts so we will stop doing wrong things. When you listen to the Holy Spirit and tell Jesus you are sorry, that means you have come home, and stopped wandering. You again enjoy your life in Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Wrongdoing makes us _____ away from Jesus.
2. Jesus looks for us like the lost sheep by letting his _____ talk to us about our sin.
3. How do we become happy again?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that you'll always bring me home to yourself when I wander into sin, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God will keep me safe in Jesus.

Day 231

Parable of the Prodigal Son Illustrated

READ
Luke
15:11-19

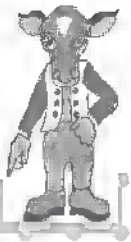
Dig Out The Answers

1. An inheritance is your share of all that your parents own, given to you after their death. Have you ever spent all your allowance on something silly? Have you ever spent a bonus you received at work or profit from your business on something you later regretted?
2. How did that make you feel?
3. What is the foolish thing the younger son did in the story.

Note This: I can do foolish things sometimes, but I am still a child of God.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned?

My Prayer: God, help me avoid doing foolish things, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Today's Wise Words: Don't do foolish things.

Day 232

READ
Luke
15:11-19

Parable of the Prodigal Son-1

Jesus told this parable because the Pharisees and lawyers did not like that great sinners like tax collectors listened to him and followed him. He wanted them to understand that he came to save sinners. The younger son in the story stands for those the Pharisees thought were great sinners. All people until they come to Jesus to save them are as foolish as the younger son in today's story. The younger son, also called the prodigal son, left home for a country far away, where he spent all his inheritance. When the prodigal son came to his senses, he decided to go back home to his father. This is what happens to every sinner who comes to his senses and asks Jesus to forgive his sins and direct his life. This is also true of every child of God. When we do wrong things, we are not happy. We go back to God the Father and say we are sorry. That's exactly what the prodigal son decided to do. As a child of God, you are never happy when you wander away into wrongdoing. You always want to come back and tell God you are sorry. This is a mark of a true child of God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the prodigal son decide to do?
2. What is the mark of every true child of God who sins?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that your Holy Spirit will prompt me to come back when I wander into sin, in Jesus' name. Amen.

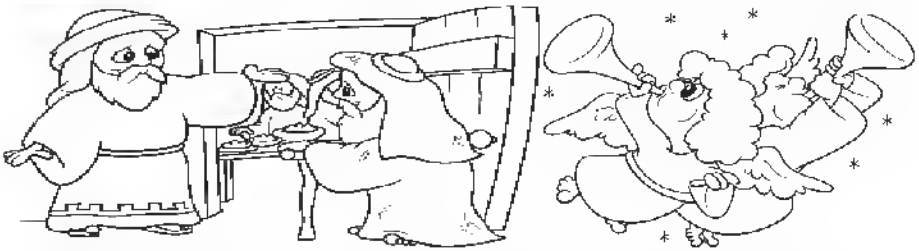
Today's Wise Words: Every Christian comes back to God when he wanders away into sin.

Day 233

READ
Luke 15:20-24

Parable of the Prodigal Son-2

Jesus teaches us that God is always ready to forgive us our sins when we ask him just as some of the tax collectors and sinners did. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law (lawyers) would not accept Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, because they believed their own rules and good works would save them. As you read from the story today, the father went out to meet his son while he was still a long way from home. This father loved his son so much he always



looked forward to his coming home. God loves us that much, just like the father in today's story. God is always waiting with open arms to receive us home when we turn to Jesus to save us or wander away into sin. The father in the story was so happy, he threw a party for his son. Can you imagine the joy in heaven when we turn away from wrongdoing and obey God? Let's make God happy by turning away from sin and doing what is right.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the father in the story do to show that he loved his son? 2. How does God do the same for us?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that you love me so much, you are ready to forgive me the moment I say I am sorry for the wrong things I do, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God waits with open arms to receive me home when I wander away.

Day 234

READ
Luke 15:25-28

Parable of the Prodigal Son-3

Be joyful when a sinner accepts Jesus or a Christian turns away from wrongdoing. The older brother got very angry that his father was throwing a party for the younger brother who had squandered all his share of their inheritance. The older brother stands for the Pharisees and lawyers, as well as anybody in the world who have set up their own rules of pleasing God apart from trusting Jesus completely. Like the older brother, the Pharisees and lawyers were not happy that such sinners could receive forgiveness and become God's children after messing up their lives big time. We also behave the same way sometimes: not particularly happy when our parents give more attention to a brother or sister who needs more help than we do. It takes some children or even some adults a longer time to learn to do some things right. God wants us to be patient with them. He wants us to be happy when they get a little more attention, and rejoice when they finally make it. We must have the love of God in our hearts for such people. Who knows? One day another person may have to be patient with you when you find it difficult to learn a particular lesson.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why was the older brother angry in today's story? 2. What are you supposed to do for those who seem to take a longer time to learn to do the right thing?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, please teach me to be patient with those who take a longer time learning to do certain things the right way, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Be patient and loving toward those with a learning problem.

Day 235

READ
Luke 15:29-32

Parable of the Prodigal Son-4

This parable also helps us see Jesus' love for even the Pharisees who did not like that tax collectors and sinners came to him to save them. God still loves us even when we don't understand his patience for his other children. See how the father tried to explain to the older brother why it was important to celebrate the homecoming of his younger brother. Jesus used the older brother's attitude to describe the character of the Pharisees and lawyers who were self-righteous sinners. They were no better than the tax collectors and sinners, who were like the younger brother in the story. Both brothers did not love God but loved what they could get from him. Both brothers needed to turn away from their sin and come to Jesus to save them, but only the younger brother did. Self-righteous people like the Pharisees think they are good enough and don't need Jesus to save them from their sin. Don't be a Pharisee, come to Jesus to save you, as the younger brother did. And don't behave like the older brother, who could also stand for people who have been Christians for a long time and find it hard sometimes to understand why God is patient with some not-so-good Christian children and their families and even blesses them with the good things of life; or if you are young, why that kid gets away with throwing tantrums. Like the father in today's story, God wants us to be happy with what he is doing in the lives of such people despite all their faults. You don't lose anything because of the good things God does for others. As a child of God, all the good things in God's kingdom are still yours.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Who do the older and younger brothers stand for? 2. Does God love both his obedient and disobedient children? How?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: God loves me even when I don't understand or appreciate what he does in the lives of others.

Day 236

READ
Matthew 13:47-50

Parable of the Net

Jesus told this parable to teach us that there will come a time when God will cast all sinners into the lake of fire while Christians enjoy heaven. The fishermen in today's story caught all kinds of fish in the net. All kinds of fish means people of different races, nations, and tribes. God does not discriminate. Jesus died for all people and we must preach to all people. Don't feel too proud to preach to people from tribes or races you do not respect. What did they do with the bad fish? They threw them away and put the good ones in vessels or baskets. In the same way, on judgment day, God will cast all sinners into the lake of fire. While here on earth Christians are like the fishermen in the parable. We keep spreading the Good News, just as a net is cast into the sea. All kinds of people will respond: those who are truly saved and those who are not. You notice that the fishermen put the good fish into baskets. God expects all Christians to separate ourselves from the world by the choices we make, welcoming new Christians into our church family sooner, and helping them grow in knowing Christ. Are you sharing the Good News and are you helping new Christians join a local church so they can learn more about Christ and get to be loved by their new brothers and sisters in Christ?

Dig Out The Answer

1. List four things from the parable Christians should be doing?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned and pray it.

Memorize 1Corinthians 9:22 (NIV): *"I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."*

Today's Wise Words: Bring new Christians into my local church and love them.

Day 237

READ
Luke
16:19-21

The Rich Man and Lazarus Illustrated-1

Dig Out The Answers

1. Which group of people was Jesus talking to?
2. What do you think the rich man should have done for Lazarus?
3. Write down what you plan on doing for the poor.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to be kind to the poor and not to look down on them. Help me not to overlook their needs. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Memorize Proverbs 21:13 (NRSV)
"If you close your ear to the cry of the poor, you will cry out and not be heard."

Day 238

READ
Luke
16:22-23

The Rich Man and Lazarus Illustrated-2

Dig Out The Answers

1. Where did the rich man go after he died? Is hell a nice place?
2. Where did Lazarus go after he died? Note: Abraham's side is heaven.

Note This: Lazarus went to heaven not because he was poor, but because he was poor in spirit. Those who are poor in spirit depend on God to save them from their sins. The rich man went to hell because he did not depend on God to save him from his sins.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray for your relatives and friends who are not saved yet.

Today's Wise Words

The poor in spirit will go to heaven.

Day 239

READ

Luke 16:24-26

The Rich Man and Lazarus-1

The rich man in the parable stands for the Pharisees (Luke 16:14) who knew the Scriptures so well and yet refused to use it to help others, just as the rich man did to Lazarus. Instead they used their position as leaders and schemed and cheated: taking houses belonging to widows and by this became rich (Luke 20:47). Instead of teaching the people about God's love they made a long list of rules for them to follow, rules that they themselves could not follow. They were dishonest in the way they related to God and people. They even thought they enjoyed all the good things of life because God's favour rested on them, and some dishonest and fake Christians are preaching the same thing these days: If you are rich then God loves you, and if you are poor then God has something against you. But none of this is true and never believe such lies. Lazarus stands for people who accept the little truth they hear about God and believe even though they may not have the good things of life. The rich man, like the rich Pharisees, rejected God even though they knew a lot about him. They lied to themselves that their riches proved that God loved them. For such people, hell will be their lot, as it happened to the rich man. There is no place like purgatory one goes to after death. The hope of all Christians who die is the resurrection at the second coming of Christ and living with him forever in heaven.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the rich man go to hell? Why did Lazarus go to heaven? 2. Does God favour people who are rich over those who are poor? How do you know?

In Your Own Words: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Share the riches of Christ.

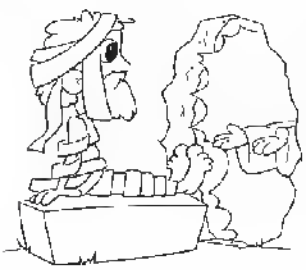
Day 240

READ

Luke 16:27-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus-2

This part of the parable teaches us that people will not come to Jesus because someone rose from the dead to tell about how terrible hell is. In today's story, the rich man asked Father Abraham for another favor. He wanted Father Abraham to send Lazarus back to his brothers to warn them not to come to hell. After one dies there is no more any opportunity left to turn to Jesus to save you. The time to get saved is now, while you are still alive. No one can come back from the dead. Only Jesus did. Father Abraham told the rich man that the people back on earth had God's Word spoken through Moses and the prophets of old. If they didn't believe God's Word, neither would they believe even if someone rose from the dead. Imagine somebody rising from the dead and telling all about hell! People will be frightened for a while. But then they will go right back to sinning after the fright is gone. Do you know Jesus rose from the dead and yet people still don't believe? Only God knows the best way to bring sinners back to himself. And the best way is for people to hear and read the Good News found in the Bible.



Dig Out The Answer

1. The best way to come to God is to hear and read __ __.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned

My Prayer: God, let people hear and read the Bible so they will be saved, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Memorize Romans 10:17 (NRSV): "*So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ*".

Today's Wise Words: There is no opportunity left after death for one to get saved from sin.

Day 241

READ
Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus Loves Little Children

Jesus blessed the children who were brought to him, as you read in today's story. Jesus loves children and Jesus loves you, your younger siblings, cousins, and babies. In the story, the disciples tried to stop the parents from bringing their children to Jesus to bless them. They didn't think children were very important. Jesus stopped his disciples from turning them away. He made them understand that children were very important, and needed as much attention and respect as adults. How do you treat babies and toddlers? Do you take time to play with them, pray with them, teach them about God and bless them as Jesus did? That's what Jesus expects you to do. Jesus placed his hands on the little children and blessed them. Do you know that Jesus is blessing you right now because you are his child? Jesus loves you very much so he keeps blessing you every day. Blessings are good things that God brings into your life. Can you list some of the blessings in your life? And do you know that because you belong to the kingdom of heaven, God will take care of you. That's how special you are to God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does Jesus expect you to do for little children?
2. Why does the kingdom of heaven belong to those who are like little children?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus blesses me every day and I belong to the kingdom of God. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus blesses all little children.

Day 242

Jesus Must Be First in Your Life

READ
Luke 14:25-26

Your greatest aim in this life is to love Jesus better than anybody or anything in the world. That's what Jesus meant when he said, *"If anyone comes to me, he must hate his mother, father, wife, children, sisters, brothers, and his very own life."* You must love Jesus better than especially those most dear to you. Suppose your sibling or friend asks you to do something that is not good. For example, she might tell you to skip classes.

What about your workplace? Would you fib to get promoted? Would you listen to people or obey God? Doing what Jesus wants rather than the wrong things others want us to do shows that we love Jesus better. Do you know many youth and adults alike obeyed Jesus, became Christians, and didn't listen to other people who would rather not have them follow Jesus? They showed that they loved Jesus better. Some children have also died along with their parents because they refused to say they were not Christians. By dying for Christ, they showed that they hated their own lives. They loved Jesus better.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does it mean to hate your very life?
2. How would you love Jesus better from today onwards?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray to love God with all your heart.

Memorize Galatians 1:10 (NLT), *"Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant."*

Today's Wise Words

Love Jesus better than anything in the world.

Day 243

READ
Luke 14:27

Take Up Your Cross

Yesterday, we learned that Jesus wants us to love him better than those most dear to us. Today, Jesus teaches you to take up your cross and follow him. What does Jesus mean by taking up your cross? Your cross is what you suffer or choose to do without because you want to obey Jesus in all things. And you can do all that only through the help of the Holy Spirit, and not something you yourself fancy doing to please others. Jesus does not want us to follow him just for the free food, healing, and miracles, as the crowds did. He wants to us follow him because we want eternal life. For example, you may feel like giving part of your allowance to missions instead of spending it all on yourself. Some friends give up their bikes for missionaries in poor countries. You may have to get up a little early to read your Bible and pray for others instead of sleeping a little more. You may have to skip a party or a big event because you may be going to church that day. Jesus wants you to understand that following him is not always going to be easy. But you must always remember that what you miss and suffer for Jesus is so small compared to the reward of eternal life. One benefit of eternal life is peace of mind here on earth, which people of the world don't have.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does Jesus mean by taking up your cross? 2. What are you planning to give up? 3. What is peace of mind? Clue Isaiah 26:3 (GW): "*With perfect peace you will protect those whose minds cannot be changed, because they trust you.*"

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Give up activities that will not help you know Christ better.

Day 244

READ
Luke 14:28-30

Story of the Builder

Jesus compares following him to a man who decides to build a house without thinking of the cost. Do you know it costs lots of money to build a house? Anyone who wants to build a house must be sure he has enough money to finish it. When people start building a house and they don't finish, others laugh at them. It's the same with following Jesus. The devil and his demons will laugh at you if you start with Jesus and walk away in the middle of it. Like the man in today's story, you are also building a house. The house you are building is your life. You are building your life on Jesus. Just as it costs a lot to build a house, so it will cost you a lot to build your life on Jesus, the foundation. Jesus is such a great Savior, he provides you with everything you need to build your life on him: his Holy Spirit who helps you to understand the Bible and gives you power to obey it; the Bible to read and know God; and Christian brothers and sisters to help you grow in your faith. So it will be so foolish of anyone who follows Jesus to quit when you have all that you need to build your life on him. Those who quit building their lives on Jesus are those who don't want to give up living in sin: enjoying bad habits and friends who lead them to do evil, bad family traditions and customs etc. Such people are like the seed that fell in thorn bushes and the rocky ground we read in the parable of the sower.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Has Jesus given you everything you need to build your life on him? Show how each of them help you build your life on Jesus.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

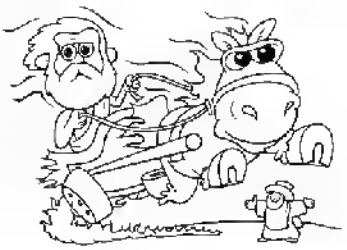
Today's Wise Words: It costs to follow Jesus.
But I have everything I need to build my life on Him.

Day 245

The Story of the King Going to War

READ
Luke 14:31-33

Jesus compares following him to a king going to war with another king. He had to be sure that he'd win the war otherwise he'd have to surrender to the other king. Every Christian is at war with the devil and his demons, the evil ways of the world, and our own evil desires. Jesus wants you to know that you have already won this war because he has provided you with everything you need to win it, which is found in Ephesians 6:10-18. The war is called spiritual warfare because we don't fight in this war with physical weapons like guns and bombs or technology. Some Christians may lose their lives in this war, some may lose family and friends, some may end up being poor. But no matter what happens to you, you have already won the war because you have eternal life. Jesus has already conquered the devil and his demons. This happened when he rose again from the dead (Colossians 2:15). Jesus stripped the devil of his power to harm and deceive us. Therefore no Christian has to be afraid of him or the people he controls in the world who seem to have so much power, fame, and money. You are on the side that has already won, why would you want to join the side that has already lost: the devil and the evil ways of the world.



Dig Out The Answer

1. Why did Jesus compare following him to a king going to war? 2. Who are Christians at war with? What would it cost?
3. Who are the winners and how do you know?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Write a prayer based on Ephesians chapter 6, verse 10 to 18.

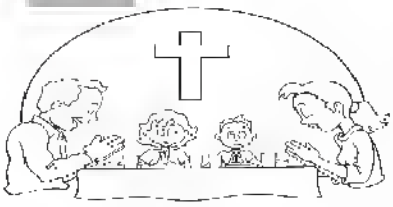
Today's Wise Words: Stand up for Jesus.

Day 246

READ
Matthew 8:18-20

The Teacher of the Law

A certain teacher of the law (lawyer) made Jesus a promise, "I will follow you wherever you go." He had not taken time to think through how much it would cost him to follow Jesus. The lawyers in Jesus' time were quite wealthy and lived a good life. Jesus told him that if he did follow him, he might not have a comfortable life, even a house to sleep in. For example, he might have to sleep out in the cold sometimes, if no one houses them as Jesus and his disciples were usually on the road, preaching from town to town. If the many missionaries we have today chose to build and own houses, cars, and run businesses, they would not have any time to travel around preaching God's Word, and many more people might die without Christ. The mistake of the lawyer in today's story was that he thought he could follow Jesus by his own power. If you choose to let Jesus save you, you must depend on the Holy Spirit to help you follow him every day. There are things we lose every day because we follow Jesus. At the end of each day, write down what you lost or missed out on because you follow Jesus. This exercise will help you know whether you are growing in your faith.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Following Jesus is not easy? Why?
2. Who can you depend on to help you follow Jesus every day?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, bless missionaries and their families who have given up houses, businesses, and many other things, so they can preach the Good News. Amen.

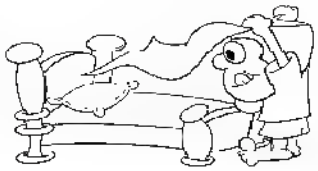
Today's Wise Words: Doing God's work will always cost you some comfort.

Day 247

The Man Who Wished to Bury the Dead

READ
Luke 9:59-60

Today's story teaches us to follow Jesus no matter what goes wrong with any of our family members. Jesus told a man to come follow him, but the man wanted to go take care of his aging father first, then he'd come follow Jesus. Jesus told him to leave the care of his father to others and come follow him. The man did. Has God called you to do something? It is best to obey him right away, as the disciple did in today's story.



Do you know that when we put Jesus first, he takes care of the needs of our family members? Don't give excuses so you can avoid church services or working along other Christians to spread the Good News. Do all your chores on time so you can worship with other believers. Don't find excuses for not doing your devotion and sharing it. When you put Jesus first, he is sure to take care of your needs. Remember to take care of members of your family by helping out, but don't forget that Jesus is the one who helps us take care of our families and he'll provide help when we need it.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Why should you put Jesus first and not your family's needs?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me not to give excuses to avoid doing my devotion or working with other Christians to spread the Good News. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Follow Jesus first, and he will take care of the needs of your family.

Day 248

The Man Who Wished to Bid Farewell

READ
Luke 9:61-62

Following Jesus must mean everything to you. Jesus' love for you must guide what you think, what you do, and what you like (Galatians 2:20). Jesus must be first in everything you do or Jesus means nothing to you at all. Following Jesus is an urgent matter, and nobody should miss the opportunity when Jesus calls and they hear. That was what Jesus was telling the man in today's story who wished to go and put his house in order, (making sure he had left instructions as to how his house should be run), before coming to follow Jesus. Jesus says such people are not fit to work for the kingdom of God. There are people like that; they always have something more pressing to attend to than to receive eternal life (save their souls from sin), which is far more important. Hebrews 3:15 (GW) warns, "*Scripture says, 'If you hear God speak today, don't be stubborn. Don't be stubborn like those who rebelled.'*" Talk to Jesus to help you see that he is more important than anything else in the world. "*What good does it do for people to win the whole world yet lose their lives? (Mark 8:36 GW).* When you follow Jesus every day, it means you are serving in the kingdom of God. How are you going to serve in the kingdom of God today?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who are not fit to serve in the kingdom of God?
2. How can you make yourself fit to work in God's kingdom?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me that following Jesus is an urgent matter. Help me follow him every day. Amen.

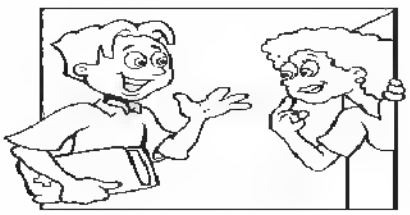
Today's Wise Words: I'll keep following Jesus so I'll be fit to serve in God's kingdom.

Day 249

READ
Luke
6:12-16

The Twelve Apostles

Jesus went up to pray on a mountain. And he spent the night praying to God. In the morning he called all his disciples mean *learners*—are you a learner?). Jesus had many disciples. He chose twelve of the disciples to be apostles means *missionaries*, people chosen for the job of telling others about Jesus—will Jesus call you too to tell others about him?). Jesus spent time praying before choosing the apostles because he had to be sure he chose only those God wanted. The apostles were going to be leaders of the church. You must also do the same, spending time in prayer when you need to choose other Christians to help you with a particular job God has called you to do to help his church grow on earth. Jesus knew the name of each disciple. Jesus knows you are his disciple, and knows you by name. Always remember that. Out of the many disciples that followed Jesus, he chose only twelve to be apostles. Sometimes, Jesus may choose somebody to do a particular job. We must all be happy for the person. Jesus knows what each of us is able to do very well, and he gives us exactly the jobs that we can do. Maybe you'd like to learn the names of the twelve apostles. Good.



Dig Out The Answers

1. How many disciples did Jesus choose to be apostles?
2. Are you a disciple of Jesus? What does disciple mean?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus knows my name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

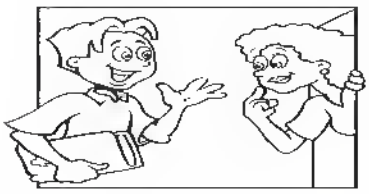
I am Jesus' disciple and he knows my name.

Day 250

READ
Mark 6:7-12

Jesus Sends The Twelve

Jesus sent out the twelve apostles on a preaching mission. This was the third time Jesus and his disciples went through the towns and villages in the region of Galilee preaching the Good News. But this third time was special because he sent the apostles by themselves in twos to preach and heal. They had seen him preach and heal and now it was time they put their learning into practice. Do you have a Christian friend to help you share the Good News? Jesus expects Christians to work together in teams as we share the Good News so we are encouraged by one another. The apostles were the leaders of all the disciples. Jesus gave them power to heal the sick, drive out demons, and preach the Good News. We must know that Jesus has given all disciples power to do his work. You are Jesus' disciple so he has given you power to share the Good News and pray for those who are sick. You can share the Good News with your friends at school, or your co-workers at your workplace. You can pray in the quietness of your room for family or friends who are sick or in a group with other Christians. You don't have to be a preacher to be able to do all that. Both young and older Christians have the power of the Holy Spirit to do their bit to help the kingdom of God grow on earth in their own small ways.



Dig Out The Answers

1. How can you help the kingdom of God grow in your own small way? 2. Who gives you power to help with the work of God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit to preach and pray for the sick to be healed.

Today's Wise Words: I have the power of the Holy Spirit to share the Good News and pray for the sick.

Day 251

READ
Luke 10:1

Jesus Trains His Disciples

Many people followed Jesus and some became his disciples. Jesus taught the disciples many truths about the kingdom of God. After teaching them for so long, Jesus sent them into the towns and villages in Judea as he had done in Galilee to practice what he had taught them. They went in groups of two. Jesus told them to preach the Good News and heal the sick. You can see it was not only the twelve apostles who were given power to preach, teach and heal but these seventy also. Are you learning from Jesus? Good. Jesus trains all his disciples. Jesus teaches you when you read the Bible. You put what you learn in the Bible into practice when you do what it says. When you obey what the Bible says, it means Jesus is training you, just as he trained his first disciples. Jesus also uses our Christian parents, Sunday school teachers, and pastors to train us. They all teach us the Word of God and how to put lessons into practice. Jesus is training you to be a good learner.

Dig Out The Answer

1. List some of the ways Jesus trains you to become a good disciple.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray that you will be a better disciple.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus wants us to be good disciples (learners).

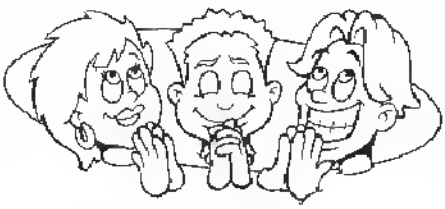
Day 252

Disciples Should Pray for More Workers

READ

Luke 10:2

Yesterday, we read that Jesus taught a group of learners and then sent them out to practice what they'd learned. Today, we read what Jesus told them to do as they set out into the towns. Jesus said to them, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." This is what Jesus meant by what he said: so many people want to hear the Good News, but only few people are willing to go and share the Good News. Jesus wanted his disciples to care that there were all these people who didn't know God. Jesus wants you also to care that there are so many people around you who don't know him. What do you do to show you care that the people around you don't know Jesus? Jesus told his disciples to pray that God would raise more Christians to preach the Good News. And that's what you can do to show you care for the lost. Pray that God will send preachers to share the Good News in all villages, towns, and cities in the world, and you should also obey by sharing it with others.



Dig Out The Answer

1. Why did Jesus ask his disciples to pray that God would send more people to preach the Good News?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: God, I pray that you'll send more preachers into the world to share the Good News, and let me also obey by sharing it with others, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words

God, send more preachers to share the Good News.

Day 253

READ
Luke 10:3

Disciples to Be as Lambs

Jesus had earlier told the disciples to pray to God to send out more preachers to share the Good News. In today's verse, Jesus added another thing. Jesus told them to go into the towns "like lambs among wolves." What did Jesus mean by that? Lambs are peaceful and patient. Those who don't want God and hate the Word of God are the wolves. They would hate the preachers, scare them, and hurt them, but Jesus had given the disciples the mighty power of his Spirit. Preachers should be peaceful like lambs who daily follow their Shepherd, Jesus, as they preach. *"Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man"* (Ecclesiastes 9:15). Preachers are like the poor man in the verse above. They are poor but wise in saving souls for Jesus (Proverbs 11:30b). Nobody knows their names but many good things have happened to many cities because of the wisdom in preaching the Good News. Do you know that many preachers are hated, and beaten and maltreated? But God gives them courage by the Holy Spirit who lives in them. Remember to pray that God will continue to protect all preachers.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Jesus' disciples are like lambs because they must be _____ and patient.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me to be peaceful and patient when I share the Good News with my friends.

Today's Wise Words: Be peaceful and patient like a lamb when sharing the Good News.

Day 254

READ

Luke 10:4-7

Disciples to Go from House to House

Jesus told his disciples not to take extra luggage or exchange the rather long traditional greeting common in Israel with anyone they meet on their way. Preaching the Good News is very urgent and they must not allow the comforts of toiletries, extra cash, or customs in the communities to slow them down. The disciples must be as lambs among wolves. They must be patient and peaceful even when God-haters are cruel to them. That is how God works: he chooses the weak things of the world to shame the strong (1Corinthians 1:27). The disciples should go from house to house preaching the Good News. They must also stay in the homes of those willing to let them. Sometimes preachers/missionaries are invited to your church from other countries, states or provinces. They may need a family to stay with. It's nice to remind your parents to let some of these preachers stay in your home. If you own your own home, would you open your doors to host Christians on mission trips? Jesus told his disciples that those who invited them into their homes would have peace. That's what we get when we host preachers in our homes. God blesses our homes with peace because we are helping the work of God grow. Such homes are freed from the worries that come from not trusting God. God also opens the minds of people in such homes to know how to wisely handle challenges they may face.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What blessings come to your family when a preacher or missionary stays in your home? 2. Why is preaching the Good News an urgent matter?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Be happy to have preachers or missionaries stay in your home.

Day 255

Disciples Told to Preach and Heal

READ
Luke 10:8-9

Yesterday, we read that Jesus told his disciples to bless the homes that accepted them. In today's passage Jesus told them to heal the sick and preach the Good News of the kingdom of God. Was what the twelve did different from the seventy? No. Jesus gave them all power to do his work. Jesus hasn't changed. What he told the disciples then, he still tells all missionaries today, too. Jesus has given all missionaries power to preach and power to heal the sick. Jesus calls all his followers missionaries (Matthew 28:19). Pray that God will give preachers and missionaries faith to trust him to heal the sick and share the Good News. You are also a disciple of Jesus, so trust Jesus to heal you when you fall sick. Trust Jesus to help you tell your family and friends about him. You also notice that Jesus told the seventy not to be fussy about the food they would be served by their hosts. Jesus wants every Christian to have the same attitude as we follow him. Bringing people to know Jesus is so urgent, we should be less concerned about what we don't get to eat or what we don't get to wear or have. Jesus has promised that he will take care of us in every situation (Philippians 4:19).

Dig Out The Answers

1. What two things did Jesus tell the disciples to do? 2. Is Jesus still using missionaries to heal the sick and preach the Good News? 3. How can you be a missionary, too?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray for missionaries not to be fussy and to understand that people need Jesus urgently.

Today's Wise Words: Missionaries and Preachers preach and heal in Jesus' name.

Day 256

READ
Luke 10:10-17

The Disciples Return

Jesus based his ministry in the city of Capernaum and its surrounding region. The people there saw his many miracles and heard the Good News he preached much more than probably the rest of Israel and yet many still did not believe in him. They even frustrated him. Jesus told the seventy he sent off to go preach and heal that a great ruin awaited those living in those cities who rejected him after receiving so many opportunities to hear the Good News. In a loving way, the seventy were to warn those who rejected Jesus of the ruin awaiting them if they did not repent. Likewise you must receive the Good News and avoid the ruin awaiting those who will not on the day of judgement. "*People die once, and after that they are judged" (Hebrews 9:27, GW).* The seventy disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They came back to Jesus very happy. Do you want to be this happy? Then obey Jesus. They told Jesus that evil spirits obeyed them. They were able to drive evil spirits out of people in Jesus' name. Wow! There's power in the name of Jesus. Another wonderful thing the disciples did was to come back to Jesus to report. It is good to go back to God at the end of each day and tell him all that happened during the day. Remember, you asked him to take care of you at the beginning of the day. Also, when our parents or supervisors give us work to do, it is important to go back and tell them we are done. It shows respect and love.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why should everyone receive the Good News?
2. Why were the seventy full of joy?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Joy follows obedience.

Day 257

READ
Luke 10:18-21

Jesus Praises God

Anytime somebody comes to Jesus to save him or her from sin, anytime demons are cast out of people, it is a sure sign to you that Satan and his demons have been completed defeated by Jesus. Hallelujah! Jesus told the seventy disciples that what should give them the greatest joy was that "their names are written in heaven"—they *are* citizens of heaven. Likewise, you should be happy each time you remember you are a citizen of heaven. That is more important. We must always remember not to boast about the great things God uses us to do because it will make us proud. Then we will forget God, as we become so good at what we do. And soon, we will stop following him. Following Jesus every day is more important. The more we follow Jesus every day the more we are able to use the power he has given us over the devil. Yes, as a disciple of Jesus, he has given you power to overcome all the power of evil and the evil one. Remember this whenever you are afraid. People who have the wrong attitude toward God (like the Pharisees and lawyers who could see the truth but were too proud to accept it), do not receive Jesus and remain blind. But if you accept that you cannot save yourself from sin by the good things you do, then you are 'the children' Jesus referred to in today's passage. And you can be saved from your sin. What did Jesus do after hearing all the good things the disciples narrated about their preaching trip? Jesus was full of joy and praised the Father. This is what we must do when God does something for us. We must be happy and praise him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What kind of power has Jesus given Christians?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus has given me power over the devil and his demons.

Day 258

The Kind of Giving God Accepts

READ
Mark 12:41-44

Are you rich or are you poor? Do you know God accepts gifts from only those who are poor in spirit (read notes on Day 41)? There is nothing any of us can give God because he owns everything. God accepts and blesses what we give to his work here on earth when we have first seen our need for him to save us from sin. People who have been saved from sin give to God with much appreciation and thankfulness. Jesus sat in the Temple court watching people give offering. Jesus saw the rich putting in lots of money. But he also saw a widow put in such a small amount of money. Jesus called his disciples and told them that the woman who gave the smallest amount of money gave more than the rich. You may ask—how could that be? The widow gave all the money she had in the world, because she was so grateful to God. The rich gave lots of money, and probably gave with an attitude of doing God a favour. We do not do God a favour when we give to his work. Rather we acknowledge that he is the one who made us, gave us the ability to work and make money and most of all, thankful for saving us from sin (Deuteronomy 8:17-18). Jesus wants us to give everything to him. But how can we give everything to God? We may have nothing left to live on. This is what Jesus wants from us. He wants us first to give him our hearts. When we give our lives to Jesus, it means we have given everything to God.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why does God accept giving from the poor in spirit.

In Your own words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: God accepts and blesses the poor in spirit who give to his work.

Day 259

READ
Matthew
22:15-22

Jesus Teaches Us to Be Good Citizens

Jesus teaches us in today's story to be good citizens. The Pharisees wanted to create trouble for Jesus. They didn't like paying taxes to the government of which Caesar was the head. Taxes are monies governments collect from all grown-ups who work and get paid. So they asked Jesus whether it was right to pay taxes to the government. Jesus used a coin to point out that it was important to pay taxes to the government since the coin was made by the government. Any government

uses taxes to build good roads, hospitals, schools, libraries and other things that we need in our cities and towns. Maybe you are not working yet, but there are other things you can do to be a good citizen. For example, bike on the sidewalk and not on the neighborhood street. If you take your dog for a walk, be sure to clean after it. Don't throw out orange peels or food wrappers in the park or streets. Can you think of other things you can do to show you are a good citizen?

Dig Out The Answer
Find out some of the things you can do to be a good citizen.
In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to be a good citizen, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Be a good citizen.

Day 260

READ
Matthew 17:24-27

Did Jesus Pay Taxes?

The collectors of the two-drachma tax asked Peter whether Jesus paid taxes. Peter told them Jesus did. When Peter came back into the house, Jesus asked about the tax. Jesus then told Peter to go catch a fish, open its mouth, collect the money stuck in its mouth, and use that to pay their taxes. That the fish was found by Peter at Jesus' command proves that Jesus is the creator and has given back to us the authority God gave us over all creation in Genesis 1:26. What the first Adam lost, the second 'Adam,' Jesus, won back for us. Hallelujah! Jesus knew that as the Son of God he didn't have to pay money to support worship at his own Father's house. It's like parents asking their children to pay taxes in their own homes. But Jesus had to fulfill all righteousness, which means, Jesus obeyed the laws of the temple including paying the temple tax. You have rights—things that are rightfully yours. But, you don't always have to insist on having them if it will bring somebody to know Christ. Jesus would rather have the Jews willing to listen to his teachings than to drive them away from the truth by refusing to pay the temple tax. Jesus wants us to follow his example by obeying the laws of our countries and fulfilling our church duties.

Dig Out The Answer

1. What did Jesus do to show he was a good citizen?
2. Give examples of things that are rightfully yours. Would you be willing to give them up if that could bring someone to Christ?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: God, help me to be a good citizen like Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Pay your taxes and give money to help the work of the church you attend.

Day 261

Jesus Teaches about His Second Coming

READ
Matthew 24:30-31

As the disciples were leaving the temple where Jesus' had just finished teaching and preaching, they couldn't help to admire how grand and magnificent it looked (Matthew 24:1). But Jesus told them about the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple they so much admired and their nation. The phrase "*the sign of the Son of Man in heaven*" means God's judgment, which happened in AD 70 just as Jesus had prophesied. The Christians (the elect) who obeyed Jesus escaped from Jerusalem with their lives just as Jesus had prophesied. Jesus used the way the temple and the nation of Israel was to be destroyed to teach that similar things would happen before he returns a second time. Jesus wants every Christian to know the truth about his second coming. This is what will happen when Jesus comes a second time. Jesus will come down from heaven. With a loud voice, he will command all Christians to meet him in the air. Read 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 15 to 17. All Christians who are dead will rise up first to meet Jesus in the air. After that, all Christians who are still alive will join Jesus in the air. Just as Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9) so shall every true Christian. When this happens God will pour his judgment out and the earth and the heavens will be destroyed as it happened to Jerusalem and the temple.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Which way is Jesus coming a second time?
2. What happens as Jesus descends from heaven with a loud call? 3. Where does Jesus take all Christians?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you I'll join Jesus in heaven at his second coming because I have trusted in him.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus will come down from heaven with a loud command, at his second coming.

Day 262

Kinds of Bodies that Go to Heaven

READ
Matthew 22:29-30

Take note of verse 30 in today's passage. Christians will be like the angels in heaven when Jesus comes again to take them home to be with him. Read 1 John, chapter 3, verse 2. It also tells us that when Jesus appears we shall be like him. Philippians 3:21 says, *"Through his power to bring everything under his authority, he will change our humble bodies and make them like his glorified body."* This new body is called a glorified body.

These bodies won't die or grow old. This is the type of body we will fly over into heaven with when Jesus comes down from heaven with a great shout. Isn't this great? Bodies that can fly through space into heaven in moments! Wow! Jesus will do all that for you when he comes to take you to heaven. Ask a Bible teacher to tell you more about the resurrected body or glorified body.

Dig Out The Answer
What kind of body will Jesus give you when he comes to take you to heaven?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that I'll get a glorified body when Jesus comes to take me to heaven. I am happy that this body will never die or grow old, in Jesus name. Amen.

Memorize Philippians 3:21 (GW): *"Through his power to bring everything under his authority, he will change our humble bodies and make them like his glorified body."*

Today's Wise Words: At Jesus' return every Christian will get a glorified body.

Day 263

No One Knows When Jesus Is Coming Back

READ
Matthew 24:36

Jesus tells his disciples that no one knows the day and hour Jerusalem and the Temple will be completely destroyed. The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple serves as an example of how the whole world will be destroyed at the end of time. And in the same way no one knows exactly the day and hour Jesus will return a second time to judge the world and completely destroy it and create a new earth and heaven. Jesus wants you to pay attention. Some people claim to know exactly when Jesus will come back, but what Jesus says here proves that they are mistaken. Do not believe such people. Yes, Jesus has given us signs pointing to his second coming. And Christians are to watch out for these signs because they help us focus on following Jesus every day. Christians who don't pay attention to what is happening around them easily forget to follow Jesus everyday. Christians who pay attention to what is happening around them and could see Jesus' words coming true are wise Christians. Jesus wants you to know that no one knows when he will come back to earth, only God the Father. And you should not also go around convincing others that Jesus is coming back on a particular date or day or hour. You will be a liar.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Can anyone tell when Jesus will come back to earth?
2. Only __ knows the day and the hour Jesus will return to earth.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear Father, thank you for teaching me not to believe those who claim to know when Jesus will come back to earth. You are the only one who knows.

Today's Wise Words: Only God the Father knows the day or hour Jesus will come back to earth.

Day 264

Signs—wars, earthquakes, and famines

READ
Matthew 24:4-8

Jesus prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem in Matthew 24, which took place in AD 70, just as he had said. Before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation, there were wars and rumors of wars, famines, and earthquakes just as Jesus had said. Always remember that the destruction of Jerusalem serves as an example of the sad end awaiting all who reject Jesus; just as the leadership of the Jews (Pharisees, Sadducees, and lawyers) along with many of the ordinary people of that generation who rejected Jesus suffered and died terrible deaths when the Romans completely destroyed Jerusalem. In a similar way, before Jesus comes back a second time to judge the people in the world who rejected him as Lord and Savior, destroy the earth and the heavens and create new ones, there will be wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, and people starving to death in many places. Even though these things are happening we should not panic. These things prove that we can trust everything written in the Bible to be true. And our faith in Jesus will grow stronger and we will stand firm every day as we look forward to his second coming.

Dig Out The Answers

1. List the things Jesus said would happen before he comes.
2. What are you supposed to do if you should see these things happen?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words: Don't panic when you hear of wars, earthquakes and famine. Trust Jesus to take care of you.

Day 265

READ
Matthew 24:24-25

Signs—False Christs

Yes, you have guessed right. Before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, many men rose up claiming to be the Christ, the Messiah, who would deliver the Jews from the rule of the Roman empire. In the same way, the Apostle John warns us in 1John 2:18, *"My children, it is an end time, and according to what you have heard that The False Messiah comes, already there have been many false messiahs, and by this we know that it is an end time"* (ABPE). Many have come and gone claiming to be the Christ and many still will come and say, "I am the Christ." They will perform fake miracles and signs to fool people (2Thessalonians 2:3-4). Don't believe such people. And you cannot be fooled if you are one of the elect. The elect are those who have the Holy Spirit living in them (Ephesians 1:14). Jesus Christ is in heaven right now. Remember that. Never believe anyone who claims to be Jesus. Also, Jesus has a different body, which is called a glorified body. Remember, when Jesus comes a second time, he'll come down from heaven for everyone to see.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Should you believe anyone who says he is Christ? Why? Where is Jesus now? 2. Who are the elect?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, never let anyone fool me into believing that he is Jesus Christ, because Christ is in heaven.

Today's Wise Words

Don't believe anyone who says he is Jesus Christ.

Day 266

READ
Matthew 24:25-28

Signs Before Jesus Returns

When Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70, the Christians escaped. They knew about Jesus' prophecy so they were not destroyed along with those who did not believe in Jesus and his teaching. Do you believe everything Jesus teaches in the Bible, then you are sure to escape with your life when he returns a second time. Jesus lives by his Holy Spirit in the lives of those who trust him. Do you have the Holy Spirit living in you? Are you allowing him to teach you and direct your life? Then you are one of the *elect*, that is, God has chosen you and he will make sure you get to heaven one day. You should never believe anyone who claims that you can experience Jesus only in certain places: at a special church meeting in a desert, or in some special room, or a particular church or what some call an 'anointed man or woman of God.'

As we read before, when Jesus returns to earth, he will appear from heaven and everyone will see him. It is very important to remember this. Never follow anybody who claims he saw Jesus at a certain place. Jesus is still in heaven. When he decides to come down from heaven, no one will miss it. All will see him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Where would some people claim to have seen Jesus?
2. Should you believe them? Why?
3. Where will Jesus appear? Is everyone going to see him when he appears from heaven?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray not to be fooled by false Christs.

Today's Wise Words: Never believe anyone who says Jesus is somewhere on earth if you haven't seen the signs he gives.

Day 267

Watch for Jesus' Second Coming

READ
Matthew 24:42-44

Why did Jesus tell his disciples all about the signs that would take place before the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple? Jesus told them so they would keep watch and be ready. People who watch will save themselves from being destroyed along with rebellious people. You are also a disciple of Jesus, and he is telling you the same thing—to watch and be ready. What does it mean to keep watch? When we watch for the Lord's coming, it means we are looking forward to it. You must look forward to it more eagerly than you look forward to your favorite food or event. To look forward also means to *want* Jesus to come soon. What do you do as you watch? Would you want Jesus to pat you on the shoulders that you've been a good worker? So even as you watch for Jesus' second coming, be busy obeying the Word of God by bearing fruit. Also help those who preach the word of God by praying and giving to them. Help out at your church too. When you do these things, you are getting ready for the Lord's coming.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus tell his disciples about all the signs that would take place before his second coming?
2. What do you do to show you are watching and getting ready for the Lord's coming?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me watch and get ready for Jesus' second coming. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Watch and get ready for Jesus' second coming.

Day 268

READ
Mark 8:31-33

Jesus Rebukes Peter

Today's passage teaches that Jesus' suffering, dying, and rising was God's plan to save us. You may hear some people claim that Jesus did not suffer, die and rise again. That idea is from Satan. Why does Satan make people think this way? He doesn't want them to be saved. The devil is working hard to take along as many people as possible to the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15) by making them believe this lie. He knows his time is short. The story continues with Peter speaking sternly to Jesus to discourage him from teaching about his coming suffering, death, and rising again. Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan." Jesus knew that it was Satan using Peter to stop him from teaching this truth. Jesus corrected him because he loved him. Peter listened to Jesus because only Jesus knows the truth. Likewise, you must also listen to Jesus only by reading the Bible. Don't believe anything that goes against the Bible even if it sounds good. When somebody claims to quote what Jesus said, check it out by first reading the Bible. You may also ask your Christian parents, pastors, mature Christians, or Sunday school teachers.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is one of the biggest lies Satan makes people believe?
2. How did God plan to save us? 3. Where do you go to check if what somebody said about Jesus is true or not.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you for letting me understand that Jesus had to suffer, die, and rise again to save me from my sins. This is the truth Jesus taught.

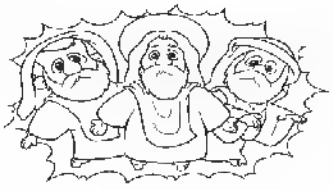
Today's Wise Words: Jesus' suffering, dying, and rising is God's plan to save us from sin.

Day 269

READ
Mark
9:2-10

Jesus' Glory on the Mount

Jesus had told the disciples that he would suffer, die, and rise again. They might have been very sad. They had thought he was coming to set up a kingdom on earth, right away. Could this be the Christ? They didn't understand that Jesus first had to suffer, die and rise again to save us from our sins. Only after that would he go back to heaven to reign in glory with the Father. Probably, they were sad and confused. Jesus wanted to show Peter, John, and James, his closest disciples, that he was indeed the Messiah. He had and still has power to do everything and to reign on earth, but he had to save us first. He wanted them to know that he chose to die to save us, and nobody forced him to it. Jesus loves us very much. Jesus took them to a mountain. And there in front of them Jesus was completely changed. His clothes became whiter than anything they'd seen. They also saw Moses and Elijah with him. God spoke from the clouds and said, "Jesus is my son." Peter was so delighted he wished they'd stay on the mountain forever. Just as Jesus showed his glory to Peter, John and James, he is willing to do that for you, too. Jesus shows his glory in our lives by answering our prayers, protecting us, leading us, performing miracles in our lives, giving us visions, and using us to bless others. Pray and ask Jesus to show you his glory.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus show his glory to his disciples?
2. How does Jesus show his glory in your life?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, let me see the glory of Jesus in my life today and every day. Amen.

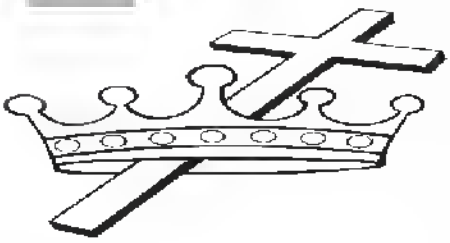
Today's Wise Words: Jesus shows his glory in my life.

Day 270

Jesus Tells About His Death and Resurrection

READ
Mark 10:32-34

Today's passage teaches that Jesus knew his own future, what was about to happen to him in Jerusalem, so we can trust him to take care of our future too. Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. The disciples were quite afraid of what might happen when they got there. They knew the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem hated Jesus. But they also remembered that Jesus himself had told them earlier that he would suffer. Now he told them once again what would happen to him there. He told of how he would be betrayed, found guilty by the chief priests, mocked, spat on, flogged and killed. But on the third day he would rise from the dead. Nobody in this world can ever tell when he will die. Nobody else ever promised to rise from the dead and carried out his promise. Jesus is the only one who died and rose again, because he is God's Son. Believe everything Jesus teaches in the Bible because it is the truth. Whatever the Bible promises will really happen. So be bold and live for Jesus!



Dig Out The Answers

1. List the things Jesus said would happen to him in Jerusalem.
2. Keep it in mind and compare to what actually happened to him when he was arrested.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, I thank you that Jesus knows all about the future, so I can trust him to take care of me, my family, and friends. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Only Jesus could tell of his future suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Day 271

READ

Luke 19:28-35

A Donkey for Jesus

Jesus was about to enter Jerusalem. He told his disciples to go to the next village where they'd find a donkey that had never been sat on. The disciples must tell anyone who asked about the donkey that the Lord needed it. Did they find things just as Jesus said? Yes. Jesus knows everything and you must trust him to take care of you. Did the owners refuse to give the donkey for Jesus' use? No. Likewise you should also be willing to use the things you have to serve Jesus? How do you serve Jesus? We serve Jesus by sharing what we have with those in need. You may give your used toys to the poor. You can volunteer to help clean your church. You can help out at a soup kitchen or food bank with permission. But most important of all you can let Jesus use your heart so you can bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did the donkey owners refuse to give their donkey to Jesus? What does this teach you?
2. Think of ways you can use the things you have to serve Jesus.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me use the things I have to serve Jesus, in his name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words:

I'll use the things I have to serve Jesus.

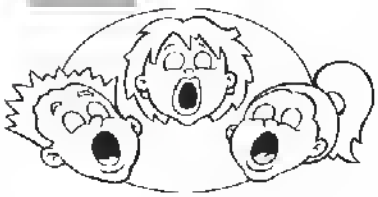
Day 272

READ

John 12:17-19

The Crowd Who Knew

The disciples had the donkey ready for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem as we read yesterday. In today's passage we read about the crowd that came to meet Jesus. This was a special crowd. They had seen Jesus raise Lazarus back to life. They went out, telling others to come see Jesus, the one who raised the dead. They couldn't contain their excitement. Many more joined the crowd. And they all went out to meet Jesus. Even the Pharisees could not stop this crowd! It happened exactly as Zechariah 9:9), one of their prophets had predicted about 500 years ago, way before Jesus came into the world: *Rejoice with all your heart, people of Zion! Shout in triumph, people of Jerusalem! Look! Your King is coming to you: He is righteous and victorious. He is humble and rides on a donkey, on a colt, a young pack animal (*GWT). Do you know of anyone whose life and activities were written down 500 years before he or she was born? Only Jesus! What would you tell others about Jesus—that he saved you from your sin, and you are on your way to heaven, that he answers your prayers! You can also tell your friends the great things the Lord has done for you. Get excited about Jesus, too. He is all-powerful!



Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the crowd that had seen Lazarus brought back to life do? 2. What should you do about what Jesus has done for you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray with great joy and excitement about what Jesus has done for you.

Today's Wise Words:

Tell others about the miracles of Jesus.

Day 273

READ
Luke 19:37-38

Hosanna to the Son of David!

What did the crowd do when they met Jesus? They praised him: *Hosanna, Son of David, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel, blessed be his kingdom. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.* Is Jesus your Christ, your King? Do you belong to his kingdom of peace? Do you see how high and lifted up he is, far above all people, leaders, kings, smart people, wealthy people, powerful people, religious leaders, crooks and wicked people, witch doctors and wizards, mediums, medicine men, sorcerers and magicians in the past, the present, and the future, and even the devil and his demons? Nobody ever performed miracles like Jesus. Nobody ever taught about God the Father like Jesus. They knew that this must be God's Son, the Christ, the Savior of the world. And they praised him. You must also praise Jesus every time you think about him. He has saved you, directs you, blesses you, protects you, and he will take you to a fun place called heaven. Praise the name of Jesus!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the crowd do when they met Jesus on the way?
2. Why should you never put anybody above Jesus?
3. How do you practice putting Jesus above everybody in your life every day? (Clue: what the crowds did).

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Praise Jesus using the words of the crowds in today's passage.

Today's Wise Words

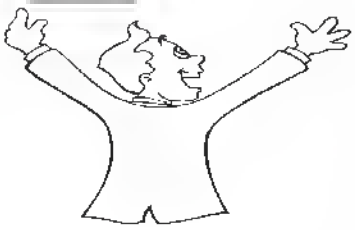
Hosanna to Jesus! Praise the name of Jesus!

Day 274

READ
Matthew 21:10-11

Who Is This Man?

Jesus entered Jerusalem, sitting on a donkey. The crowds followed, praising him and shouting, "Hosanna." It was one week before Resurrection Sunday! There were more people in Jerusalem because most Jews traveled to Jerusalem from all over Israel and other countries to celebrate the Passover. What a wonderful sight that was! The people in Jerusalem got all excited with what was happening. They asked, "Who can this be?"



The crowd answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." They remembered God's promise through Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15 *"The LORD your God will send you a prophet, an Israelite like me. You must listen to him" (GWT).* Do you know the Bible? The crowds that followed Jesus into Jerusalem did. And some could recognise Jesus as the Prophet. If someone asks you who Jesus is, what would you say? Would you say Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world? Would you say he is the Son of God? Would you say he is also your prophet and your best friend? That would be right! Read the Bible so you can also recognise Jesus as he leads and directs your life, the lives of other Christians, and his church.

Dig Out The Answers

1. The crowd answered __ __ __ . 2. But Jesus is more than a prophet. Write all you know Jesus to be using these passages: Colossians 2: 9 -15; John 1:1-5

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Father that Jesus is more than a prophet. He is the Son of God, my Savior and Lord.

Today's Wise Words:

This is Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Day 275

Judas Iscariot Decides to Betray Jesus

READ
Luke 22:1-6

Isn't this awful? Judas Iscariot pretended to be a friend of Jesus, when all along he was totally confused. He was following Jesus for wrong reasons. Yes, people may come to Jesus because they want healing or to be out of trouble, but as they begin to know Jesus, their reasons change and they begin to follow Jesus because they want to be saved from sin and have eternal life. Why are you following Jesus? As you know by now, the lawyers, Pharisees, and chief priests didn't like Jesus at all. They didn't like the truth Jesus preached about God. It became clear to them that he was superior to them. So, they became jealous of Jesus and wanted to kill him, pretending his teachings would create big problems between the Jews who followed him and the Romans who ruled them. They couldn't arrest Jesus when he was teaching or healing, otherwise there would be a riot. They needed somebody who knew where Jesus was at particular times of the day, so they could arrest him quietly. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples had that information and he went to see them. Satan put this very evil idea into Judas Iscariot's heart to help the enemies kill Jesus. And Judas Iscariot listened to him. Satan is the one who puts evil ideas into people's heads to say evil things about Jesus, his teachings, and those who follow him. As a Christian, you have the power of the Holy Spirit to say "no" to the bad ideas Satan wants to put in your head. You can also say, *"In the name of Jesus, get behind me, Satan!"* and the Lord will send him packing.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who put the bad idea into Judas Iscariot's heart to help the enemies kill Jesus? 2. Who tempts people with evil ideas? What do you do when Satan tempts you? James 4:7

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned and pray it.

Today's Wise Words

Say "no" to every bad thought Satan tempts you with.

Day 276

READ
John 12:1-6

Why Judas Betrayed Jesus

Today you read that Judas was actually stealing from the money bag that belonged to the disciples. You also learned that Judas did not care for the poor. He only wished to have the perfume sold, so he could lay his hands on the money when it got into the money bag, which he kept. Small sins grow, and in the end Judas loved money more than Jesus. As a disciple he'd heard Jesus teach many truths but he was never quite convinced. He never gave himself completely to the Lord, so his heart was empty. Satan puts evil ideas into empty hearts. Judas' heart was empty so the devil was quick to drop the evil idea of betraying Jesus in it. What a tragedy, when someone comes so near to Jesus but never takes the final step of commitment. A heart without Jesus is an empty heart. When Jesus lives in your heart, it's full of the Holy Spirit, so nothing else can get in. Keep Jesus' words in your heart and Satan will not have space to put evil ideas into your head. Those who listen to Jesus' words, believe and obey will be delivered when tempted. The word of Jesus is the most powerful thing in the whole world. When you have him in your heart, the devil runs away from you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why was Judas' heart empty? What does the devil do with empty hearts?
2. A heart that Jesus lives in is full of __ __ __ .
3. When you have Jesus' word in your heart the devil ___ ____ ___ ___ ____ ___ ____.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that my heart is full of the Holy Spirit, so the devil cannot put evil ideas into it, in Jesus name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Satan has no opportunity to trip up all whose hearts are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Day 277

READ
Luke 22:7-13

The Last Supper

We call it the Last Supper because it was the last time Jesus ate with his disciples before he died. Have you read the story in the Bible about how God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt? Do you remember that God told them to mark the two side posts and top of the door frames to their houses with the blood of a lamb so the angel of death sent to kill the firstborn sons of the Egyptians would skip their houses and then their children would be safe and not die? In that same story God told the Israelites to eat that same lamb they killed, roasted with bread not made with yeast along with bitter herbs the same night the angel of death would be passing over their homes. And they were to celebrate this night of their deliverance every year along with the meal for the rest of their lives as a community. By this God painted a picture for the Jews of how in the future his Son, Jesus, would become the lamb to die for all people, so his blood would wash away our sins and deliver us from death (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:4, 1 Corinthians 5:7). Jesus told Peter and John how to find the place for them to celebrate the Passover Supper. They found it exactly as Jesus had said. Living for Jesus is as exciting as looking forward to a great dinner.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why was Jesus and his disciples celebrating Passover?
2. Why is Jesus like the Passover lamb?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned?

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Today's Wise Words:

Jesus is the Passover Lamb.

Day 278

READ
Luke 22:14-20

Celebrate the Last Supper

Jesus was very happy to eat this Last Supper with his disciples. Jesus enjoyed the company of his disciples. Likewise, you should eagerly look forward to your time with Jesus in prayer and the reading of the Bible. You should also enjoy the company of other Christians: small (cell) groups, Bible clubs, youth, and young adult programs at your church. Jesus always gave thanks before eating. You must remember to thank God for all the food he provides for you. Jesus told his disciples to celebrate his death and rising by sharing the bread and cup as he did with them, often. Why? So we will always remember that Jesus suffered in his body (the symbol of bread) in order for us to have healing for both our physical and spiritual bodies. It also reminds us not to be in a habit of sinning because Jesus' blood, (symbol of the wine), washed away our sins and gave us power over sin. Every time we join in Communion or the Lord's Supper, Jesus joins us in a special way and in many instances people have received healing from various diseases and more power to live for Jesus. Are you a disciple of Jesus? Then take part in Communion, so you will always remember Jesus' love for you.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus tell his disciples to keep having this kind of 'Last Supper'? 2. What should you do before eating any meal?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned and pray it.

Today's Wise Words: Eat the Last Supper or Communion to remember Jesus' sacrifice for you.

Day 279

Jesus Points Out the One Who'll Betray Him

READ
John
13:21-27

Jesus and his disciples were still eating the Last Supper. Jesus told his disciples that one of them was going to betray him. Betray means, one of the disciples of Jesus was going to work with the enemies of Jesus to have him killed. Remember Jesus had earlier told the disciples that one of them was a devil in John chapter 6, verse 70, and he meant Judas Iscariot! Jesus had always known who was going to betray him. The disciples were confused and wondered who that could be. Peter told John, who was sitting close to Jesus, to ask him. Jesus told John it was the one he was about to give the piece of bread dipped in sauce to. Jesus gave the piece of bread to Judas Iscariot. Judas left immediately after taking the bread, now bent on working with Jesus' enemies. The other disciples did not understand what was happening. Judas Iscariot was the one who kept the money bag that belonged to the group. They thought Judas was going to buy something they needed for the Festival. Remember, Judas used to steal from the money bag! Small sins grow, and in the end Judas loved money more than Jesus. Judas Iscariot obeyed Satan instead of Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did Jesus know who was going to betray him? What does it teach you about Jesus?
2. What were Judas' small sins? What do you do about small sins? 1John 1:9.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me power to overcome small sins, so they will not grow in my life. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Small sins grow.

Day 280

READ
John 13:36-38

Jesus Tells about Peter's Denial

After Judas Iscariot left, Jesus told his disciples he would be going away. Peter wanted to know where Jesus was going. He was confident that he would never leave Jesus, but instead follow him and even die with him. Really! Jesus knew that Peter would be so afraid to say he knew him when it really mattered. It wasn't because Peter did not love him but fear would overcome him. Likewise, Jesus knows all about what you can do for him and the times you will disappoint him and yet he loves you all the same and praying for you. Jesus loved Peter, even though he knew Peter was about to say he didn't know him in just a little while. You may do wrong things sometimes, but that doesn't mean Jesus will stop loving you. Once you trusted Jesus to save you, he came into agreement with God never to lose you by letting sin rule you or for Satan and the world to control you. He will never allow the devil or demons or the people they use against you to overcome you and win. Should you fall, he is always ready to help you up again.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Does Jesus love you even though he knows all the wrong things you'll do now or in the future? Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, thank you that you know all the wrong things I will do but you still love me all the same. Amen.

Memorize Proverbs 24:16 (ABPE): *"Because the righteous falls seven times, and he rises, and the wicked is overthrown by evil."*

Today's Wise Words: Jesus loves me even though he knows all the wrong things I'll do.

Day 281

READ
Luke 22:31-34

Jesus Prays for Peter

Jesus told Simon Peter that Satan was going to tempt him sorely but he had prayed for him. Jesus prayed that Peter's faith would not fail. Jesus knows all the temptations you will face throughout your life. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven and praying for you that your faith in him will not fail even if you should sin. Have you done something bad you should have known better not to do? Don't let Satan and your conscience keep tormenting you. Come to Jesus and tell him you are truly sorry and believe that he has forgiven you. Remember that he has already prayed for you before you even say or do any wrong when you came to him to save you. And when Jesus prays, it will be done. Nothing can take you away from Jesus. You are kept by the *power of God* and *the prayer of Jesus*. Hallelujah! Be assured that Jesus is able to bring you to heaven one day.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Does Jesus know every single temptation that the devil will bring in your life?
2. What does Jesus do about this?
3. What are the two things that keep you in the faith?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Mighty God, thank you that my faith in Jesus will never fail, because your power and the prayer of Jesus keep me safe, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The power of God and the prayer of Jesus keep me in the faith.

Day 282

READ
John 14:1

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

The gospel of John, from chapters 13 to 17 is called the Upper Room Discourse. John, one of Jesus' closest disciples wrote it down. We will discuss what Jesus taught his disciples in these chapters from Day 281 to Day 319. Jesus had earlier told his disciples at the Last Supper that one of them would betray him. He also told them he would be going away. They were a very sad lot. They had hoped that Jesus was coming to establish a kingdom in which they would rule with him. Had they hoped in vain? Sometimes following Jesus seems like that. Nothing seems to work well for us but Jesus is telling us to trust him. Because in his own timing everything will turn out well for our good. The disciples did not understand that Jesus came into the world to die and save us from sin. See how Jesus' suffering, death, and rising, which was a big sad bump in their lives turned out to be a big blessing for the whole world. Be patient in whatever challenges you are facing right now. When God brings you through and out of it you will see how many people will be blessed through it. Believe Jesus.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Are you troubled by some sad news or a challenge?
2. What does Jesus want you to do?
3. Why are you cheered up when you trust in God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Jesus, help me trust you with my problems, and you will cheer me up. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Don't be troubled. Believe Jesus.

Day 283

Jesus Is Preparing a Place for You

READ
John 14:2-4

Yes, Jesus cares that we live fruitful and useful lives here on earth, and not wait to just get to heaven. What are you good at? Do it very well. In fact how we live for Jesus here on earth will determine the kinds of rewards we will receive when we get to heaven. There is more life after death. So it is foolish to live like only what we have here is all that there is to life. Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven. The disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus. Now Jesus was going away. They thought they had followed Jesus for nothing. But they were wrong. Jesus said he was preparing a better place for them in heaven. Imagine for a moment what God is preparing for children in heaven—the best of rides, playground, toys, space travel and all that you can think of is nothing compared to what is waiting for you in heaven. Can you imagine a jeweled city, streets of gold, tree of life, zillions of saints, worship, a great banquet (party), the Lord God Almighty, the Lamb, the river of life? Nobody can imagine it yet. And the fun part is that the fun will never end. Here on earth, the fun is only for a short while, but in heaven the fun and joy never ends and you'll never get bored or hurt. Don't be sad when you can't go to certain places or do certain things because you are a Christian. We live only a short time on earth, but in heaven we will live forever.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is Jesus doing in heaven for all those who love him?
2. Write down what you think heaven will be like? (Revelation 5:9-13 & 21:9-27)

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank Jesus for preparing a place for you in heaven and coming back to take you there one day.

Today's Wise Words

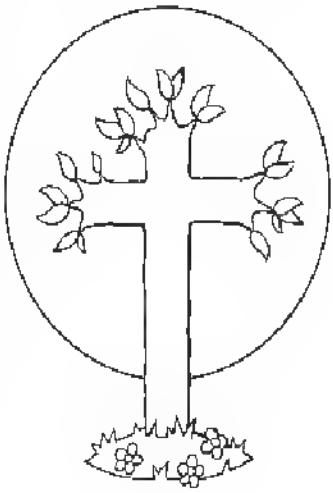
Jesus is preparing a great and fun place for me in heaven.

Day 284

READ
John
14:5-11

Jesus Is the Way to God

Today's passage teaches us that Jesus is the only way to God. Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, asked him to show them the way to the place he was going. Jesus is the way to God, and Jesus wanted his disciples to understand this. Jesus died, rose again and went back to the Father. Those who love God the Father will also accept Jesus as the Way and the Truth and the Life. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Good. Now, you know the way to God the Father. The works Jesus did proved that God the Father lived in him and they are one. If Jesus lives in you it means you know God the Father and you have seen him.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Where was Jesus going?
2. How can you go to the Father in heaven?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you for sending Jesus to show me the way to you. Amen.

Memorize John 14:6 (NIV)

"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Today's Wise Words

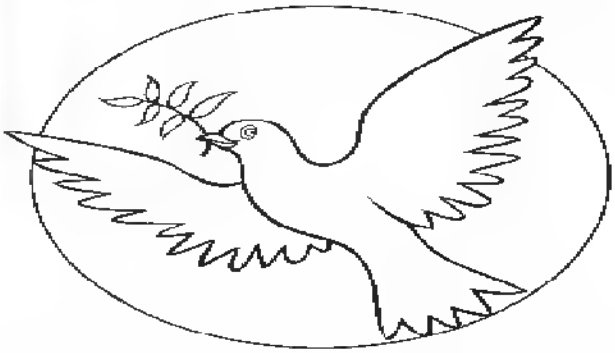
No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.

Day 285

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

READ
John 14:16-17

Jesus promised to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit, and true to his word, the Holy Spirit lives in every Christian today. Jesus can be trusted for everything. The disciples thought they'd miss Jesus if he went away. But Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be their friend. The



Holy Spirit is also called the Comforter. He comforts us when we are troubled. He is also called the Spirit of Truth, because he teaches us the truth about Jesus. Jesus told them the Holy Spirit would live with them and in them. True to Jesus' words, today the Holy Spirit lives with and inside every Christian.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who did Jesus promise to send the disciples?
2. Is the Holy Spirit living in your heart, and with you as a friend?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to live in my heart. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

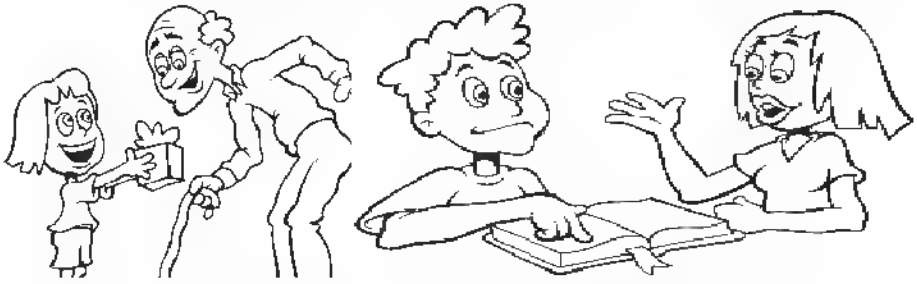
Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit as he promised.

Day 286

READ
John
14:21-24

What It Means to Love Jesus

Those who love Jesus obey him. What Jesus commands us to do is found in the Bible. When we do what the Bible says, it means we love Jesus. Do you remember some of the things the Bible teaches us to do? (See Days 52 – 82). Ask God to help you obey them. When you obey God's Word, you see, know and love Jesus better. Imagine your parents keep saying how much they love you and yet they never provide food, clothes to wear, or even chat with you. Would you feel loved? Imagine God says he loves us and yet leaves us to die in our sins and suffering. You wouldn't think that is true love. Love always shows itself in action. What you say to people is important, but even more important is what you do. People sometimes say



things they don't mean or even believe. But what they do tell you a lot about what they believe. Actions speak louder than words. Those who love Jesus show it in their actions.

Dig Out The Answer

How do you show your love for Jesus?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: God, let me love Jesus by obeying him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Actions speak louder than words.

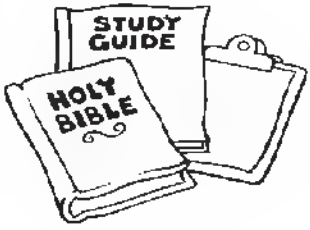
Day 287

READ

John 14:25-26

What the Holy Spirit Does

Jesus told the disciples what the Holy Spirit would do. The Holy Spirit teaches us all things about Jesus, and reminds us of all that we read in the Bible. Whenever you read the Word of God and understand what it says, it is the Holy Spirit living in you who is teaching you. Whenever you remember a Scripture verse you learned a while ago, it is the Holy Spirit who has reminded you. It is clear that without the Holy Spirit we won't understand God's Word. Before you read the Bible every day, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are about to read. You are able to obey God's Word, appreciate it, treasure it, and share it with great joy when you understand it.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What are the two things the Holy Spirit does for a Christian?

2. What should you do before reading your Bible every day?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Father God, remind me to ask the Holy Spirit to teach me as I read the Bible daily. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

When I read about Jesus, the Holy Spirit teaches me, and later he reminds me of what I have read.

Day 288

READ
John 14:27

Jesus Gives Peace

Today's passage teaches that only Jesus gives peace. Jesus gave his disciples peace. You may ask, what is peace? We have peace when we know that Jesus loves us in both good and bad times. We are sure that he'll never leave us and this helps us to be calm in all our troubles. Even if we should die, we are sure that we are going to a better place. Jesus knew that bad things would happen to his disciples after he returned to his Father. There are so many bad and wicked things in this world, that's why Jesus put his peace in the heart of every Christian. It's like going to a dark room knowing that dad is already there. Though it's dark, you are not afraid because you know your dad is in there and he will protect you from all harm. That's the way it is with Christians. The world can be one dark place, but Jesus is here with us, so we are confident that he'll protect us. Knowing this helps us not to worry, but to remain calm even in rough and bad times. This is the peace Jesus gives. What a wonderful Savior we have!

Dig Out The Answer
Why has Jesus put his peace in the heart of every Christian?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus has put his peace in my heart. Amen.

Today's Wise Words
Jesus gives peace to all who follow him.

Day 289

READ
John 15:1-2

Jesus Is the True Vine

Jesus wants us to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As we learned earlier in our devotional, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Jesus is the truth, and those who follow him think and act like him. Jesus is the true vine. Christians are the branches on the true vine. The branches that are part of the vine bear fruit. Every Christian who is truly in Christ bears fruit. God the Father is the gardener, and he prunes the branches that bear fruit. God does this by helping Christians stop bad habits and the sins that easily trip them so they can bear more fruit. Can you think of some bad things you used to do that you have stopped? God cuts off dead branches that bear no fruit. The dead branches are not attached to the vine, that's why they are dead. They don't draw food from the stem of the vine. The dead branches stand for churchgoers, or do-gooders, who have never asked Jesus into their lives. Soon everyone notices that they have just been pretending to be Christians, since they bear no fruit of the Holy Spirit. Nobody can fool God. When you follow Jesus with all your heart, you will bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit and keep bearing more and more.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Who is the true vine? Who are the branches?
2. What happens to branches that don't bear fruit?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that because I have asked Jesus into my life, I am a branch on the true vine, and that you'll help me bear the fruit of the Spirit, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is the true vine, and Christians are the branches.

Day 290

READ
John
15:4-6

Depend on Jesus to Bear Fruit

Jesus teaches that we cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit unless we depend on him. The branches draw food from the vine so they can bear fruit. We also need to draw power from Jesus, who is the vine, so we can bear fruit. That's what Jesus meant by "remain in me." We depend on Jesus by talking to him in prayer many times during the day. When we talk with him, he gives us power to do what is right. We depend on Jesus by reading the Word of God daily. When we know and do what Jesus says, we remain in him. We also depend on Jesus when we share what we know about him with other believers and unbelievers. All these things help us to remain in Jesus and we are able to bear more fruit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is it important to "remain in Jesus"?
2. List some of the things you do to help you remain as a fruit-bearing branch on the vine.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me depend on Jesus to bear fruit, because I can do nothing without him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words
Depend on Jesus and you'll bear more fruit.

Day 291

Benefits of Depending on Jesus: answered prayers

READ
John 15:7

One of the benefits of depending on Jesus to bear fruit is that God will answer your prayers. How does that happen? You remember that when Jesus lives in you, you begin to think and act like him. The more you obey the Word of God, the more you become like Jesus. The more you become like Jesus, the more you are able to know what God wants to do in your life. When you know what God wants to do in your life, you talk to him about it in prayer. And because it's God's will, your prayer is answered. It's wonderful to pray and get answers. Sometimes God says "no" to our prayers, and that's also an answer. It may be because what you are asking for will harm you instead of blessing you. And because God is wise and loves you, he would rather not let you have it. Sometimes, God may want you to wait for a while before giving you what you asked for in prayer. When we depend on Jesus, and remain in him, God answers our prayers.

Dig Out The Answers

Name one thing God does for those who depend on Jesus to bear fruit?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me depend on Jesus to bear fruit, so I'll receive answers to my prayers. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Depend on Jesus to bear fruit and God will answer your prayers.

Day 292

Benefits of Depending on Jesus: much more fruit

READ
John 15:8

When we depend on Jesus to bear fruit, we bring glory to God. Those who depend on Jesus to bear fruit will bear much more fruit. This is what God does for those who continue everyday to depend on Jesus. Bearing much more fruit makes it possible for God to use you for greater things, and you bring glory to his name. You know there are so many sides to being kind and God wants us be able to seize the opportunities to show it. There are so many ways we can be patient, loving, or self-controlled and God wants us to be able to be strong to practice them whenever we have the opportunity. God does great things in Christians who bear much more fruit: answers when you pray for others; when you lay your hands on the sick they will get well. You will be able to give good advice to family and friends when they don't know what to do. When others look at your life, they can say that God is good, great, and powerful, and they may think of giving their lives to God, too. Christians who bear much more fruit are usually seen as humble and wise. Such people are bringing glory to God. If you want to bear much more fruit, then keep depending on Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How do you bear much more fruit?
2. Write three ways you can show kindness or be patient? 3. How do we bring glory to God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned

My Prayer: Pray to bear much more fruit.

Today's Wise Words

Bring glory to God by bearing much more fruit.

Day 293

Benefits of depending on Jesus: love

READ
John 15:9-10

When we depend on Jesus to bear fruit, we enjoy God's love more and more. God will never stop loving us, but we can stop loving God. The one thing we can do to continue loving God is to bear fruit. When you see how wonderful it feels to forgive, be kind, gentle, and at peace, you also feel deeply how precious God's love is. Do you know fruit-bearing keeps you out of trouble? Yes. It keeps out bad company or bad friends. When you avoid bad friends, you'll likely not get into trouble with teachers or your neighbors. When you bear fruit, you'll likely not disobey your parents or your teachers or supervisors. You feel blessed and loved by God when you see all the benefits you enjoy because you bear fruit. God loves you and wants to keep you from trouble; that's why he wants you to bear fruit so you'll enjoy his love and protection.

Dig Out The Answer

What do you enjoy when you keep on bearing fruit?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me continue to bear fruit so I can enjoy your love more and more, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Depend on Jesus to bear fruit and you'll enjoy God's love.

Day 294

Benefits of Depending on Jesus: Joy

READ

John 15:11

When we depend on Jesus to bear fruit, we have lots of joy. The Holy Spirit is the only one who gives joy. So it follows that only those who have asked Jesus into their lives have true joy. Joy is bigger than happiness. Joy is knowing that you have won the victory. You know how it feels to win an award, the championship, or a prize. The Holy Spirit living in us reminds us that we have won the victory, or overcome a certain problem, challenge, or situation, even though we may be in the thick of it. How? Because Jesus overcame all the challenges, and every bad situation for us when he died on the cross. This means Jesus already solved all the problems you will face in this life before they appear. So you can relax and celebrate the Lord even when you find yourself in difficult situations. Jesus doesn't want us to have half joy. No. He wants us to be full of joy, it spills over to others so they'll be blessed. When we are full of joy, we become strong and help others in need. And that is a blessing to them. We have half joy when we don't depend on Jesus to bear fruit. Now that you know how to be full of joy, continue to depend on Jesus to bear fruit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How do you become full of joy?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me continue to depend on Jesus, so my joy will always be full. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Depend on Jesus to bear fruit and you will be full of joy.

Day 295

Jesus Commands Us to Love

READ
John 15:12

Jesus wants us to love other Christians. Do you know when the church started a long time ago, many joined because of the way the Christians loved one another (Acts 2:44-47)? All Christians belong to one family, and Jesus is the head of that family. Think of your Christian friends. Are there ways you can love them better than you are doing now? List some things you'll start doing to show your growing love for them.

Some of the things you can do to show your love to other Christians are: be nice to them no matter how they look, don't talk behind their back, comfort them when they are sad, listen when they have a problem, pray with them, don't laugh at their mistakes but encourage them, and share with those in need (Ephesians 4:20-32).

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does Jesus command us to do?
2. Read Ephesians 4:20-32 and list the things you'll begin doing to show your love for other Christians.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me love other Christians by being kind to them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words
Love other Christians dearly.

Day 296

READ
John 15:13-14

Jesus Calls Us Friends

Jesus calls you his friend. He died for you because you are his friend. What do you do for him if he is your friend? Jesus wants you to obey him. Jesus is not asking every Christian to die for him. Not many Christians will be killed because they believe in Jesus. Probably, you live in a country where you can worship Jesus freely. Thank God for that and obey the Word of God so you can show others that Jesus is your friend. Or, maybe you live in a country where Christians are persecuted.

You can still be happy that you heard the Good News, and you are saved, and Jesus is now your friend. And no matter what happens you are a winner and Jesus will never leave you because he is your faithful friend.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does Jesus call you?
2. What does Jesus want his friends to do?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Thank God that Jesus is your friend.

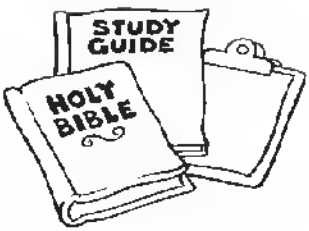
Today's Wise Words: Jesus is my friend.

Day 297

READ
John 15:15

You Are More than a Servant

Jesus calls 'friends' all those who believe in him. And because Jesus is our friend, we are not servants or maids. Do you think your parents would tell a maid important things in your family? No. It's the same with Jesus and us. Because we are Jesus' friends, he is willing to show us everything we need to know about God. The only way you can know God is to become a friend of Jesus. How does Jesus tell us all about God? The Holy Spirit helps us understand God's Word when we read it. You call somebody a friend because you know the person. In the same way, you can call Jesus your friend because you know him from what you read in the Bible.



Dig Out The Answers
1. What does Jesus do for us because we are his friends?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, I thank you that I am Jesus' friend, and he teaches me all I need to know about you. Amen.

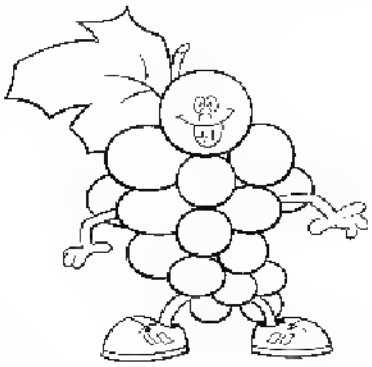
Today's Wise Words
Jesus tells me all about God the Father because we are friends.

Day 298

READ
John 15:16

Jesus Chose Me to Bear Fruit

Jesus chose you to bear fruit—fruit of the Holy Spirit. Understand that you are a Christian because Jesus chose you. Isn't this wonderful? Before you were born, Jesus had already chosen you, and he is going to keep you safe till he brings you to heaven. So keep reminding yourself that Jesus chose you to be his disciple because he loves you. Why did he choose you? Jesus chose you and put his Holy Spirit in you so you would bear fruit. Keep this in mind every day. Jesus chose you as his disciple so you would bear fruit. What is the fruit Jesus chose you to bear. Read the following verses and write them down: Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 5:9; Hebrews 12:11; James 3:18 and Philippians 1:11.



Dig Out The Answers
1. Why did Jesus choose you?
2. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, I am happy to know that Jesus chose me to bear fruit. Help me do so, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words:
Jesus chose me to bear fruit.

Day 299

READ
John 15:18-19

The World Hates Christ's Followers

Jesus wants you to know that when you follow him you are not going to be popular in the world. Many people in the world do not like Jesus and his way. And they don't like people who follow the way of Jesus. The way of Jesus says that all are sinners, but the people of the world don't want to think they are sinners. The way of Jesus says that Jesus is the Son of God who died to pay for our sins. The people of the world don't want to hear that. They think they can do enough good things to make it to heaven without Jesus' help. They don't want to accept that only the blood of Jesus can wash away their sins and bring them to God in heaven. Some people of the world won't even accept that God made the world. They are angry with God and with themselves. But God loves the people of the world. The Good News is being preached and many are turning to Jesus. It's good to remember that when you follow Jesus the world will not like you. But God is more important. The world will soon be destroyed and those who have Jesus will live in a new earth and heaven. You don't want to be destroyed along with the world.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus say the world would do to Christians?
2. What will happen to the world in the long run?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, give me power to walk with Jesus even though the world hates me, so I'll not be destroyed along with the world when Jesus returns. Amen.

Today's Wise Words:
You won't be popular in the world if you are a Christian.

Day 300

A Servant Is Not Greater than His Master

READ
John 15:20-24

Jesus continues to warn us that the world will treat us badly because we follow him. Jesus wants us to understand that if they did it to him, they'd do to us. We are not greater than Jesus who is our Master. Jesus gives two reasons why the people of the world treat Christians badly. The first thing is that they don't know God, the Father. Secondly, they don't want to know about their sins or wrongdoings. They'd rather keep their sins secret. When we come to Jesus, his light shows us we are wrongdoers, and then we turn to him to forgive us and save us. There are those of the world who don't want that, so they treat Christians badly. Praise God, Jesus showed you that you are a sinner, gave his blood to pay for your sins, and now you are on your way to heaven. Pray for people you know who are still refusing Jesus, that they may come to him, too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Write down the two reasons why people of the world hate Christians?
2. What do you do about family and friends who are still of the world?

In Your Own Words: What did you learn? Write it down.

My Prayer: Dear God, I thank you for my salvation. Save those of the world who do not know you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

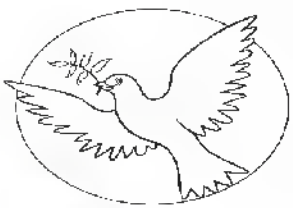
Jesus is the Master, and I am the servant.

Day 301

READ
John 15:26

The Holy Spirit Is a Person

Jesus teaches in this verse that the Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit has titles like 'Comforter' or 'Counselor,' and 'Spirit of Truth.' Jesus also teaches here that the Holy Spirit is not a power or a thing. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, just as Jesus is the Son of God. Because the Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son, he does exactly what the Father and Jesus would do. Don't get confused. God is one, but we know him as the Father, secondly as Jesus, and thirdly as the Holy Spirit. He is the same one God, and he wants us to understand this. The Holy Spirit does a number of things for the Christian. He teaches us about Jesus (1John 2:27). He gives us power to obey what we read from God's Word. He reminds us of what we know about Jesus when we are in difficult situations. He comforts us through times of suffering. When the Holy Spirit does all of this work in our lives, he is making us witnesses for Christ. The things the Holy Spirit helps us do tell unbelievers that Jesus is God and only he can save us from sin.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Write down some of the names of the Holy Spirit. 2. What do you learn from the notes above about what the Holy Spirit does in your life?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that the Holy Spirit is God the Spirit, who teaches, gives me power to do what is right, and comforts me when I am suffering, so I can be a witness for Christ. I love you, Holy Spirit, for all the work you do in me, in Jesus' name.

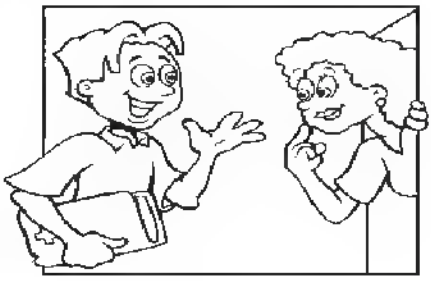
Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit is God.

Day 302

READ
John 15:27

Tell Others about Jesus

Jesus told his disciples to tell others about him (telling others about Jesus is witnessing or testifying). But how were they going to do it? Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit from God would make him (Jesus) real to them. You are able to tell others about Jesus only when the Holy Spirit lives in you and teaches you about him. You must call on the Holy Spirit to help you know Jesus more. That's his work and he is happy and ever ready to help you. Jesus wants all Christians to be his witnesses.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Who helps us testify about Jesus?

2. What does Jesus want all Christians to do?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me by your Spirit to be a better witness for Jesus daily. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Tell others about Christ by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Day 303

Jesus Tells of What Is Yet to Come

READ
John 16:1-4

Jesus told his disciples how much they were going to suffer because of him. Jesus is God and knows everything. So he was able to tell the disciples all that would happen to them. He told them how they'd be driven out of the places where Jews worshipped, ill-treated, and even killed. He told them all that so they would not be discouraged and stop following him in times of trouble. Do you know all that Jesus said came true?

The apostles were beaten and put in prison. Some were killed, just as Jesus had said (Acts 5:17- 42 & Acts 12). There are many Christians around the world who are in prison, beaten, and killed, but they never stop following Jesus. If all that Jesus said is coming true, then it is also true that he is the Son of God, Savior of the world, and coming back to take us to heaven to live with him forever. It is also true, that Jesus will cast all those who reject him into the lake of fire on judgment day. Every promise in the Bible will come true. It's very important to trust Jesus and obey him with the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus loves you and wants to bless you from now on and forever.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did the words of Jesus to the disciples come true? 2. Why is Jesus able to tell of things that will happen in the future?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me hold on to Jesus, no matter what, because he has power to bless me and bring me to heaven one day. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus knows all that will happen in the future.

Day 304

READ
John 16:5-6

Look on the Brighter Side

The disciples were sad after hearing all that they'd have to suffer for Christ. Sometimes, we are also sad because of the things others do to us or what we miss out on because we are Christians. But Jesus wants us to look on the brighter side. Jesus had earlier told the apostles how they'd sit on twelve thrones and reign with him when he comes back to earth. He had also told them earlier that he was going to prepare a place for them. These are great rewards, but the disciples had already forgotten all these good things, and they were thinking only of the sufferings ahead of them. There are lots of people suffering in this world without any hope. But Christians are blessed because even though we suffer, Jesus has assured us he would be with us and deliver us. Whenever you miss out on something because you are a Christian, just remember Jesus' promise that you are reigning with him right now and the full beauty and power of this reign will be seen when he comes back one day. So always look on the bright side. Be happy, you are a prince, a princess, in the kingdom of God.

Dig Out The Answer

Jesus doesn't want us to think so much about what we miss in the world but rather ___ ___.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, whenever I am sad, help me think of the wonderful things Jesus is preparing for me to enjoy here on earth and later in heaven. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Be happy about the great plans God has for you here on earth and fun times ahead in heaven.

Day 305

Jesus Has Our Best Interest at Heart

READ
John 16:7

Jesus teaches us in today's verse that he always does what is best for us. Jesus is love and will never do anything that will hurt us or leave us without hope. Jesus can be trusted. He wanted his disciples to understand this. Jesus had to go away so the Holy Spirit would come and help the disciples become faithful followers. See how blessed we are because the Holy Spirit lives in us, teaches us, and gives us power to live right so we can be light to the world. He even gives us gifts so we can work for Jesus more effectively. We all behave like the disciples at times. We worry about a few things that go wrong. We forget that Jesus loves us and only allows things into our lives that will bless us the best. Of course, bad things happen to Christians sometimes, but we must remember to trust Jesus to deliver us from them. Some of the things Jesus allows into our lives may be difficult and sad. Some young people may not understand why their parents separated or divorced, or why they died so young. Some older people may not understand why they lost a job they needed so badly to feed their family or why they lost a dear one to cancer or some terrible accident. But remember, all Jesus allows into our lives bless us one way or the other. Trust him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why was it important for Jesus to go back to heaven? 2. How are we blessed today because we have the Holy Spirit?
3. Jesus allows only the .....

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God he does only the best for you.

Today's Wise Words

All Jesus allows into my life bless me one way or the other.

Day 306

The Holy Spirit and the People of the World

READ
John 16:8

Jesus told the disciples the kind of work the Holy Spirit would do for the people of the world. The Holy Spirit makes people understand that they are sinners. He makes them understand that sin is ugly and filthy. He makes them understand that sin has made them foolish and separated them from God who is holy. The Holy Spirit makes the people of the world understand that no one avoids sin because it is our nature to sin. He also makes people understand that all who go on sinning will end up in hell. God loves all the people in the world, that's why he sent the Holy Spirit to help us understand how awful sin is so we can turn to Jesus to save us. Do you know that if you have given your life to Jesus it is because the Holy Spirit made you understand that you are a sinner? Praise the Holy Spirit for doing this work in your life.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does the Holy Spirit show people about sin so they can come to Jesus?
2. What did the Holy Spirit show you about your sin so you could come to Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you, Holy Spirit, for working on my heart to help me become a Christian. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit makes people understand that they are sinners.

Day 307

READ
John 16:8-9

Unbelief–the greatest sin

Jesus teaches that the greatest sin in the world is refusing to accept him as Savior. Unbelief was the sin of the teachers of the law in Mark chapter 3, verses 28 – 30. They did not believe in Jesus even though they saw the miracles he performed. The teachers of the law even accused him of casting out demons by another demon. Thank Jesus for saving you. You have obeyed the greatest commandment of God to accept Jesus as Savior. Only the Holy Spirit can make people understand that the greatest sin is refusing Jesus. The Holy Spirit convinces sinners (people of the world) to believe in Jesus. If you are a Christian today, it is because the Holy Spirit opened your heart to understand that the greatest sin is not accepting Jesus as Savior. Once you understood that, you gave your heart to Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work on the hearts of those who don't believe, helping them to understand that their greatest sin is refusing to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Dig Out The Answers
1. What is the greatest sin?
2. Who makes people understand this?
3. What happens when people understand this?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Holy Spirit for opening my heart to understand that not accepting Jesus as Savior is the greatest sin. I have given my life to Jesus since then, and pray that others will too, in Jesus name.

Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit makes people understand that not accepting Jesus is the greatest sin.

Day 308

The Holy Spirit and Righteous Jesus

READ
John 16:10

Jesus teaches that the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of people to understand that he is a righteous man, and through him, all who come to him will be made righteous. The Holy Spirit opens the minds of sinners to understand that there is only one standard by which we can know what is true and right and that is Jesus Christ. Just as the weighing scale is the only standard by which we know how much a thing or a person weighs, Jesus is the only standard by which to weigh whether what you believe about God is true or false. Because Jesus was a righteous man he was the only person that died and rose back to life. A righteous man is a person who does not sin. You are right with God now that you have Jesus in your heart. God calls you righteous. The Holy Spirit did this work in your heart. When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit as he promised. The Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of all Christians today, and Jesus is now with the Father in heaven. Jesus is in indeed the Son of God, the only righteous person, who can make you righteous.

Dig Out The Answers

1. The Holy Spirit convinces and makes people understand that Jesus is .....
2. What does it mean to be righteous?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you Holy Spirit for teaching me that Jesus is perfectly righteous, and that God also makes righteous all those who trust in him. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit makes people understand that Jesus is righteous.

Day 309

The Holy Spirit and the Judgment of the Devil

READ
John 16:11

The Holy Spirit helps people to understand that the power of the devil has been destroyed. Very true! The devil is called the prince of this world. The devil has lost his power over people because God has found him guilty. Hallelujah! He has been judged and at the end of time he will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). The Holy Spirit shows sinners that the devil is a liar and a deceiver so they can turn to Jesus to save them (Revelation 12:9). How was the devil judged? Jesus cast demons out of people while on earth. He showed that he had power over the devil and his demons. Jesus overcame the temptations of the devil. Jesus showed the devil that he could not lead him to sin like other men. Jesus conquered the devil so you too can say "no" to the devil when he tempts you. The Holy Spirit shows sinners that there is a day of judgement coming when God will get rid of sin and throw all sinners into the lake of fire along with the devil so they should quit following the devil and come to Jesus to save them. Jesus died and rose again, showing that death no more has power over those who believe in him. The Holy Spirit makes people understand that Jesus has complete power over the devil. Believe it. You are safe in the hands of Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. List some of the things Jesus did while here on earth to show that he had power over the devil? 2. What does the Holy Spirit help people understand from today's verse.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus has complete power over the devil so I am very safe in your hands.

Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit makes people understand that Jesus has conquered the devil.

Day 310

READ
John 16:23-24

Pray in Jesus' Name

Jesus teaches us to pray in his name. Why? What does it mean? When we pray in Jesus' name we are accepting that God indeed sent him to die for our sins and he has indeed become our Savior. Those who refuse to pray in Jesus' name are telling God they don't care to have Jesus as their Savior (remember Jesus is God), and they'll come to him their way not his way. Every time you pray in Jesus' name you are calling him Savior and Lord. And you are calling him by his name, accepting that he is the only one you depend on to save you from sin and all other problems. There are those who pray in Jesus' name because they need a *quick* help to get out of trouble and not because they believe he is their Savior, and that will not be praying in Jesus' name. When we pray in Jesus' name it also means we want God to answer our prayers according to his will, not ours. Why? Because God knows what is best for us. God answers our prayers so we will be full of joy. Jesus is praying for you in heaven right now. When you ask in his name, he then tells God the Father about it, and God the Father gives you what you asked for according to his will. That's the way God wants us to pray—to ask in Jesus' name.

Dig Out The Answers

1. In whose name do we pray?
2. Why do we have to pray in Jesus' name?
3. Why does God answer our prayers?

In Your Own Words: Write down today's lesson.

My Prayer: Dear God, let me remember to always pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Ask in Jesus' name.

Day 311

READ
John
17:1-5

Jesus Prays for Himself

Jesus prayed at the Last Supper. Jesus prayed for himself because he was about to suffer and die. He did this in front of his disciples. It is good to pray for yourself when you are in trouble and need help. Jesus' prayer tells us that he was with his Father before he came to earth. It also teaches that the Father gave him authority to give eternal life to all who believe in him. Jesus said he had finished all the Father asked him to do. You must also do all that God asks you to. When you do, it means you are bringing glory to God. Jesus asked his Father to answer his prayer by bringing glory to him. The Father answered Jesus' prayer by raising him from the dead, taking him to heaven, and giving him the name above every name (Philippians 2:8-9). At the name of Jesus everything has to bow. That's why the devil runs away when you mention the name of Jesus. That's why when you pray in Jesus' name, you stop doing wrong things. There is power in the name of Jesus and it stops the power of sin from driving you to do wrong things. Jesus prayed and the Father answered. You must also pray and the Father will answer you, too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Jesus has authority to give _____ _____ to all who come to him. 2. Jesus was with ____ ____before he came to earth.
3. What did Jesus do to bring glory to God's name?

In Your Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me bring glory to your name by doing all you ask me to very well, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus brought glory to God by finishing well all God asked him to.

Day 312

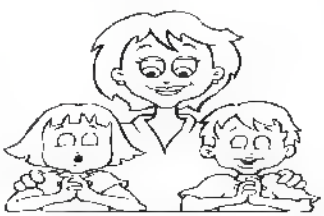
READ
John 17:6-8

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Jesus prayed for his disciples, too. Jesus was happy to tell God about all he had taught his disciples. He told God how the disciples believed all that he taught them, and how they were sure he was truly the Son of God. The disciples had been good students. Would Jesus say the same about you to God? Be a good follower of Jesus, everyday! Jesus is happy to talk to the Father about you when you follow and obey him. Jesus is sitting at the Father's right hand in heaven right now, praying for you. Make him glad by following him like the disciples did. What are some of the things the disciples did to show they were good students?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus happily tell God about the disciples in prayer?
2. The disciples believed that Jesus was sent from ____.



In Your Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear Father, make me a good follower of Jesus like the disciples, so he will tell you about me as he told you about them. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

The disciples made Jesus happy because they obeyed.

Day 313

Disciples Bring Glory to Christ

READ
John 17:9-10

We are still reading Jesus' prayer for his disciples. At this point there were only eleven apostles because Judas Iscariot had left to tell the enemies of Jesus where he could be found so they could arrest him. Jesus says in the prayer that his disciples belong to God. You also belong to God if you have given your life to him. Jesus also says in the prayer that all who belong to the Father are his, and all who belong to him are also the Father's.

This tells us that Jesus and the Father perfectly agree on everything and share everything. Jesus then asks the Father to let his disciples bring glory to him. If you read the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament of the Bible, you will see that all the apostles brought glory to Jesus just as he had prayed, following what he taught them: preaching the Good News, healing, and performing miracles. As we said before, we bring glory to God when we obey him. Jesus prayed that his disciples would obey him all the time. Jesus prays this same prayer for you, too. What a friend we have in Jesus.

Dig Out The Answer

1. Jesus asked in prayer that his eleven disciples would bring glory to him. How do you bring glory to Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear Father, I thank you for teaching me that I belong to you because I believe in your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

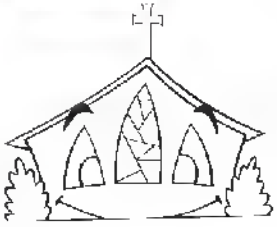
I belong to the Father because I believe in Jesus.

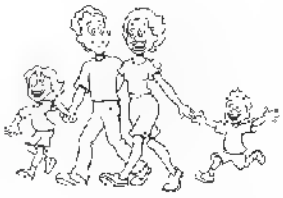
Day 314

READ
John 17:11-12

We Are One

We are still reading Jesus' prayer for his disciples. The Father knows everything and yet Jesus prayed about what was going to happen to him and his disciples who would be left on earth to carry on with his work. It teaches us a lesson about prayer. Even though God knows everything, we should still go to him in prayer and tell him our problems. This shows we trust him to help us. Jesus asked his Father to keep the disciples safe from the evil one and to keep them all one. What does it mean "to be one"? Jesus wants his disciples to love one another and continue to believe all that he taught while here on earth. There are times when quarrels break out among Christians because some start believing wrong teachings, which were not taught by Jesus. The power of Jesus protects those who believe and follow his teachings, helping them to love one another and spreading the Good News. Follow the teachings of Jesus carefully, so you can work *as one* with other believers.





Dig Out The Answer

1. Jesus asked the Father to protect or keep his disciples safe and to keep them all _____.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me talk to you in prayer about my problems even though you know them already, and help me to follow your teachings carefully so I can work together with other Christians as one people who belong to Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus keeps his disciples safe and wants us all to be one.

Day 315

READ
John 17:13

Joy for all Disciples

Jesus was still praying for his disciples. In today's verse, Jesus asked that his disciples would have joy in their hearts. The world is full of evil and wickedness. Jesus knows that Christians may suffer in the world and may sometimes be sad. That's why he asked his Father to fill his disciples with joy—joy that comes from knowing they belong to God, that they are special, that they are going to reign with Jesus one day, and that Jesus is preparing a better place for them. Jesus wants you to live and follow him with great joy because you are special, dearly loved, and he is preparing a wonderful place for you in heaven, where you'll reign with him. What is making you sad today? Jesus is praying for you right now to be filled with joy. Accept it.

Dig Out The Answer
Jesus asked the Father to fill his disciples with ____.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, fill me with joy so I can live happily for Jesus everyday. Amen.

Today's Wise Words:
God fills me with joy.

Day 316

You Do Not Belong to the World

READ
John 17:14-16

Jesus is still praying for his disciples in today's passage. Jesus' prayer teaches that his disciples do not belong to the world. What does Jesus mean when he says Christians do not belong to the world since we all live in the world. The world and the leaders of the world have a way of doing things which never pleases God. It is called the world system. First of all, most of the leaders in the world do not fear God and do not obey him (from parents at home to leaders of countries). They promote ways of getting ahead of others by using unjust laws, greedy ways, and exploitation to do so (Amos 8:4-6; Psalm 82). Some countries even passed laws to make men marry men and women marry women, which God forbids people to do (Romans 1:18-28). Those who belong to the world are against God and his ways. True Christians are just passing through this world and no matter how hard it becomes to live in the world system, we refuse to do things according to the ways of the world but rather follow Jesus' teachings. Christians are here in the world to tell others to come and follow Jesus. Jesus also prayed that God would keep his disciples from the evil one, the devil. Jesus is praying this for you right now. So be confident and live for him. Ask God to keep you from the evil one every day.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Do you belong to the world? Why?
2. What are Christians to do while they live in the world?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you God that I don't belong to the world. I am here in the world to tell others to come and know Jesus. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

I don't belong to the world. I belong to God.

Day 317

READ

John 17:17-19

I Am Set Apart

Jesus is still praying for his disciples. In today's passage, he asks his Father to set his disciples apart by his word. Jesus' teaching is called the truth or the word. *Set apart* means the same thing as *sanctify* or *make holy*. People set things apart that are special. Everybody who comes to believe in Jesus is set apart by God for the special job of telling others about Jesus by the fruit they bear. You are set apart because you believed the Truth, who is Jesus and what he taught, that he is the Son of God. You are now a special person and you are to bring glory to God by knowing his Word and obeying it. If you are truly set apart by Christ Jesus you will make every effort to grow every day by bearing fruit. The Apostle Peter puts it this way (2 Peter 1:5-8, TLB) "*But to obtain these gifts, you need more than faith; you must also work hard to be good, and even that is not enough. For then you must learn to know God better and discover what he wants you to do. Next, learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have his way with you. This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply. The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is the truth that sets Christians apart?
2. Why did God make you special?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God for setting you apart.

Today's Wise Words: God has set me apart to live for Jesus and tell about him.

Day 318

READ
John
17:20-23

Jesus Prays for His Church

Today's passage is about Jesus' prayer for all Christians. Isn't this wonderful! Before you were born Jesus knew you would follow him, and he already prayed for you. And not just for you, but anyone who'd decide to become a Christian. Jesus had you in mind when he prayed for all those who would come to believe in him. Jesus prayed that the Father would make all Christians one. Christians act as one when we love one another.

When Christians love one another, the people of the world take notice and come to believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God. Wouldn't you want many people to come and know Jesus? Wonderful! Then ask the Holy Spirit to help you love other Christians by not dwelling on their faults but encouraging them.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus ask God to make Christians one?
2. List the things you are going to do to show your love for other Christians.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to love other Christians, so that those of the world will know that Jesus is the Son of God.

Memorize John 17:21 (NIV): *"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

Today's Wise Words

I must be one with all Christians by loving them.

Day 319

The Church to See Jesus' Glory

READ
John 17:24-26

Jesus also prayed that God would bring all Christians to heaven to see his glory. And one day, when the trumpet shall sound, all believers will be caught up into heaven with Jesus. Hallelujah! Jesus also prayed that those who follow him would know that he is one with them. We are one with Christ Jesus because his love lives in us. Jesus prays that this love his Holy Spirit has poured into your heart will grow (Romans 5:5). Jesus says that his love grows in you the more he makes himself known to you. This means the more you know Jesus by reading the Bible and obeying it by the help of the Holy Spirit, the more his love grows in you. Love grows when we show it to others through our kind deeds. Know this, that you are one with Christ Jesus if you have accepted him as Lord and Savior.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus ask God in the prayer?
2. How did we become one with Jesus Christ?
3. Why does Jesus continue to make himself known to Christians and not just when we first believed?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, I thank you that I am one with Jesus because his love lives in me. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

I am one with Jesus and one day I'll see his glory.

Day 320

READ
Matthew 26:36-39

Jesus in Gethsemane

Jesus had finished praying for himself, his disciples, and all those who'd later come to believe in him. The Last Supper was finally over. Jesus took his disciples to a garden called Gethsemane, outside Jerusalem's city wall. Jesus and his disciples had gone there many times. Jesus was as human as you and me. See how sad and troubled he was because of all that he was about to suffer. He took his three best friends farther into the garden to keep watch with him. Even Jesus needed his friends when he was sorrowful. You also need your friends and your friends need you, too. Ask Jesus to give you good friends who will be there for you when you need them. Don't forget to ask that you will be there for your friends, too, when they need you.

Jesus was never tired of praying. Remember, he had just finished praying at the Last Supper, and here in the Garden he was praying again. Jesus was eager to do what his Father wanted—to die for our sins. That was a painful thing but Jesus was willing to do it.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Was Jesus ever tired of praying? What does that teach you?
2. Was Jesus willing to do what God wanted? What does that teach you?
3. Why did Jesus take along his three best friends to pray?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to pray often. Also, teach me to do what you want for my life even though sometimes it may be painful; and give me good friends, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Even Jesus needed his friends.

Day 321

READ
Matthew 26:40-46

Jesus and His Best Friends

Jesus was still praying in the Garden. Jesus returned to see that his three best friends were fast asleep. They couldn't keep watch with him. But Jesus was not angry with them. He understood that they were sleepy and very sad. Jesus shows us how to be good friends even when we feel sad or troubled. We should not blame our friends for not helping us the way we think they should. Jesus knew better. God is the only one who is able to see us through all our problems in the best and most helpful ways for ourselves and others, because he knows everything about the problems before they occur. It is good to have friends, but best to have Jesus who'll never sleep. Jesus finished praying and was soon ready to leave the Garden with his friends. What happened next?

Dig Out The Answers

1. What made Jesus a good friend in the story?
2. Why does Jesus make a better friend than anyone else?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to be a good friend like Jesus even when I am sad. Amen.

Memorize Proverbs 20:6 (NLT): *"Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?"*

Today's Wise Words: Jesus was a good friend to his disciples even when they disappointed him.

Day 322

READ
Mark
14:43-50

Jesus Is Arrested

Jesus had barely finished talking to his disciples when a crowd stormed into the garden armed with swords and clubs. And guess who was leading them? You guessed right. Judas Iscariot, the betrayer. He was not even ashamed. He kissed Jesus on the cheeks, singling him out as the one to arrest. Jesus had asked to let his disciples go free. Then and there, the men seized Jesus and took him away to the chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law. Jesus' disciples deserted him. They were afraid. Remember Jesus was not surprised. He knew they would desert him; he had warned them about it and even prayed for them (Matthew 26:31 & 56). Jesus had prayed to prepare himself for this so he was ready to face what was coming. Prayer helps us do God's will, especially the painful and difficult ones.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Jesus had prayed and was prepared for the suffering ahead. It is good for you to prepare to do what God wants by _____ first.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to pray like Jesus, so I'll always be prepared to obey you even in difficult times. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus was prepared to die because he had prayed.

Day 323

READ
John
18:8-9

Jesus Protects His Disciple

Jesus made sure the disciples were not arrested along with him. Remember they were still in the Garden. Jesus told those about to arrest him to let his disciples go, and they did. The officials had to obey Jesus. Jesus did not lose any of his disciples. Jesus wants you to know that he'll always protect you just as he did for his disciples. You are in his hands, and very safe, and nobody can touch you unless he allows it for a good reason in order to bless you and others. Jesus was willing to suffer so his disciples would escape. As a disciple of Jesus, do you know you have also escaped with your life because Jesus chose to suffer and die for you? All those who trust in Jesus have escaped with their lives because Jesus died in their place. What a wonderful Savior! The disciples escaped with their lives so they'd tell others about Jesus after his resurrection. Jesus protects you so you will continue to live for him so others may come to know him too.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why didn't the soldiers arrest the disciples as well? Is Jesus able to protect you too?
2. List the reasons Jesus allowed the disciples to escape with their lives.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you suffered so I will escape with my life and live for you. Thank you that I am safe because you protect me. Amen.

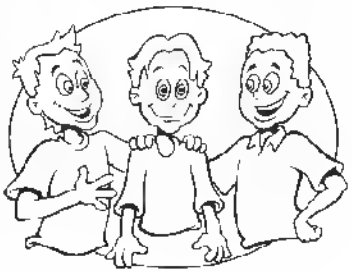
Today's Wise Words: Jesus chose to suffer so I would live.

Day 324

READ
John 18:10-11

Whatever the Reason, Don't Do the Wrong Thing

Peter wanted to defend Jesus. He wanted to fight with those who had come to arrest him. What did he do? He aimed his sword at the servant of the high priest and WHAM! struck his right ear. Do you think he did the right thing? Of course not! Do you know they could have arrested Peter for striking the ear of the servant of the high priest? But Jesus had asked those about to arrest him to let his disciples go free.



No matter how awful you feel, remember to ask the Holy Spirit to help you live right. The right thing Peter could have done was to pray and keep calm. That's good advice. When you are not sure what to do in a particular situation, just pray and be calm. This will prevent you from doing wrong things that could hurt others. Was it wrong for the chief priests to arrest Jesus who went around doing good? Yes. And sometimes others don't treat us right either. But would it be right for you to treat them nastily in return? No.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Was it right for Peter to strike the servant's ear? 2. What should Peter have done with the warning Jesus gave him and the rest of the disciples earlier?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray that God will help you think and live right so when you face a difficult situation you will do what is right naturally.

Today's Wise Words

Pray and be calm when you don't know what to do.

Day 325

READ
Luke 22:49-51

Jesus Does the Right Thing

Today's story teaches us to be kind to those who hurt us. That's what Jesus did. When one of his disciples struck the ear of the servant of the high priest, Jesus touched his ear and healed him. The story we read yesterday gave us the name of the disciple who did this. His name was Peter. Jesus did not panic like his disciples because he trusted his Father and knew that his Father would raise him up from the dead. What we know about God helps us trust him when we are in trouble. Jesus knew all that was going to happen and had told the disciples about it already. There was no way he would have fought with a sword. That's why it's important to read the Bible to know and understand all that God is able to do for you in every situation. Always remember that God is able to get you out of any trouble or to see you through it. Trust him and you will do what is right even when you find yourself in a tight spot.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus heal the servant's ear? What does this teach you?
2. What helps us trust God and do what is right in difficult situations?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me more about you, so I can trust you and do what is right even if I should find myself in a tight spot, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words
Know God. Trust Him. Do what is right.

Day 326

Jesus Is Taken To The High Priest

READ
Mark
14:53-59

Jesus was taken to the high priest, where the chief priests and teachers of the law had all gathered. They wanted someone to accuse Jesus of a crime. Jesus never sinned and so they found it hard to find someone to accuse him of a crime. The chief priests and leaders were bent on putting Jesus to death. Isn't that awful—to kill somebody who never wronged anyone but only did good things. All the things people were accusing him of were a pack of lies. Those speaking against him did not understand what Jesus meant by destroying the temple and building it in three days. Jesus said that a while ago in response to a question from the Jews who wanted a sign from him to prove that he had the authority to get rid of the selling and buying that went on in the temple for temple sacrifices (John 2:13-22). But he was referring to his body that would be crucified and raised back to life on the third day. Do you remember we learned from the Sermon on the Mount to be happy when people tell all kinds of evil lies about us? They did it to Jesus first, but Jesus remained calm just as he had taught. Peter followed at a distance and went right into the palace where Jesus was to be tried. It is not good to follow Jesus at a distance. You will discover the reason soon.

Dig Out The Answer

1. People told all kinds of evil lies about Jesus. What Jesus taught on the Sermon on the Mount came true even in Jesus life. This proves that Jesus teaches the truth. So what should you do with the teachings of Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God help me trust you to take care of me when others peddle lies about me. Amen.

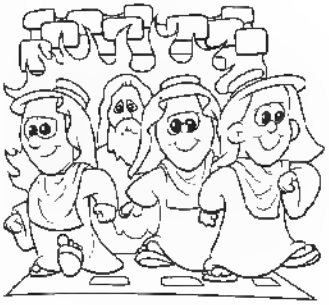
Today's Wise Words: Jesus' teachings are all true.

Day 327

The High Priest Questions Jesus

READ
Mark 14:60-61

Jesus was still in the palace of the high priest. The high priest wanted Jesus to say something to defend himself but Jesus kept quiet. He taunted and sneered, showing off his authority but Jesus was not moved. Some people in authority behave this way: trying hard to impress others how important they are by bullying and insulting those under them. Always keep in mind that you are important because you are made in the image of God and not because of what you own or where you live or what others say you are. Jesus was sure of who he was. He would not allow the high priest to bully him into feeling small. Jesus teaches us a great lesson here. Sometimes, it is good to keep quiet when others bunch together, trying to find fault with you because you are a Christian. Jesus was also patient during the questioning time. Likewise, we need to be patient with those who treat us badly because they don't trust in Jesus.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What are the two good things Jesus did when questioned by the high priest?
2. Why do you think it's important to be patient and quiet when others tell lies about you just because you are Christian?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to be quiet and patient like Jesus when others treat me badly because I am a Christian, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Be patient in trouble.

Day 328

READ
Mark
14:61-65

Jesus—The Messiah

Jesus did not respond to the lies told about him. But Jesus answered this particular question the high priest asked, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" He answered, "I am." Like Jesus, you should also be bold to say, "Yes I am a Christian." Jesus was not afraid to speak the truth about who he was and still is. To prove that he was really the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus continued with his answer, "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Jesus' answer fulfilled a prophecy from Psalm 110:1-2 (MSG) which says, "*The word of God to my Lord: Sit alongside me here on my throne, until I make your enemies a stool for your feet. You were forged a strong scepter by God of Zion; now rule, though surrounded by enemies!*" Jesus is the Lord in the above verse from the Psalm. He died and was raised back to life and sits on the throne with God the Father in heaven (Mark 16:19). And from that time on, the high priest and elders of Jerusalem (Acts 2:33-40) saw how Jesus ruled the hearts of his disciples through miracles and how many believed from Jerusalem, where the church started, to the rest of the world even though they tried to silence them. Jesus continues to rule the hearts of his disciples today even though they are surrounded by enemies. And at Jesus' second coming his enemies would admit that he is God. Jesus' answer made the leaders very angry and they mistreated him just as he told his disciples. How true Jesus' words are! Trust him to take care of you when attacked by people who hate Christians.

Dig Out The Answers
In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to be bold to say I am a Christian, even if that won't make me popular. Amen

Today's Wise Words:
Don't be afraid to say you are a Christian.

Day 329

READ
Mark
14:66-72

Peter Denies Jesus

Just as Jesus said, Peter denied he knew him. That's what happens when you follow Jesus at a distance. Peter, like all the other disciples fled for their lives when Jesus was arrested. Of course, they were afraid to be arrested too. But Jesus understands. Jesus understands when you are afraid and chicken out sometimes. And he wants you to come to him for help instead of running away as his disciples did. Peter followed Jesus at a distance. He was far away from where Jesus was standing for trial. Peter had mixed with the crowd. He didn't want anybody to know he was one of the disciples. Probably, if he had followed Jesus closely, he might have been bold in saying he was indeed a disciple. How do we walk close with Jesus? We walk close with Jesus by reading the Bible, obeying it, and praying with the words we read. To stay at a distance from Jesus is when we don't read the Bible often to find out what God wants. Also, when we refuse to pray and refuse to obey. We are happy when we walk close with Jesus. Peter was very sad when he denied he knew Jesus. But Jesus never gave up on Peter and Jesus will never give up on you when you trip and fall into sin.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does it mean to walk close with Jesus?
2. Would you stay close to or at a distance from Jesus? Why.
3. Would Jesus give up on you if you fail at following him faithfully sometimes?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me walk close with Jesus by reading the Bible, obeying it, and praying it. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Walk close with Jesus.

Day 330

READ
Matthew 27:11-18

Jesus Is Taken To Pilate

The chief priests and the leaders of the Jews did not have power to put Jesus to death. The Romans ruled the Jews at the time and they had the power to put Jesus to death. That's why the Jewish leaders sent Jesus to Pilate. Pilate was the Roman Governor who ruled that part of Israel. Pilate questioned Jesus. Just as we read yesterday, Jesus was always ready to say who he was and still is—the King. Pilate saw that the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus killed because they envied him. Envy is when you want what someone else has. They were also jealous of Jesus. Sometimes, we all behave like the chief priests and teachers of the law. We say mean things to each other because we are jealous of something he or she has. We wished they didn't have this or that, or born into that important family, tribe, or race, or a citizen of a particular country. A friend brings a cool new game to school and because you are jealous, you say it's boring. Another friend gets a perfect score on his test, and you go, "He thinks he knows everything." That's jealousy. Jealousy may lead to other evil things. Ask God to help you not to be jealous of members of your family, friends, or your co-workers.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the chief priests and teachers of the law want Jesus dead? 2. What evil things did the jealousy and envy of the chief priest and teachers of the law lead to? 3. What are you going to do to guard against envying others?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me not to be jealous of others. Help me think and pass nice comments about others and what they have.

Today's Wise Words: Don't be envious or jealous of others.

Day 331

READ
John 18:33-38

Pilate Asks "What Is Truth"

Today's passage teaches us to search for TRUTH till we find it. Jesus is the TRUTH, as you know by now. Pilate talked to Jesus. Jesus told Pilate he was indeed a king but his kingdom was not of this world. He told Pilate he came into the world to tell about the truth. Pilate got a little interested and asked Jesus, "What is truth?" Did Pilate wait for an answer? No. He was more concerned about the crowd out there who wanted to have Jesus killed. Pilate missed the truth. Probably, he was afraid to know the truth. Or maybe, he didn't care to know the truth. Or he loved his position as governor better. Are you also running from the truth that you are a sinner who needs Jesus to save you? Are you running from the truth that you have offended a friend and you need to say sorry? Are you running from the truth by giving excuses not to attend church, Bible studies, or a youth or young adults group? What are you running away from?

Jesus wants all to know the truth because truth drives away fear. Jesus is the truth. It is this truth that saves us. Pray for people who are running away from the truth, that they'll come to know Jesus, the TRUTH. Praise God, you haven't missed the truth. Jesus is the TRUTH and lives in your heart if you've asked him in.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What is truth? Who is the truth?
2. You shall know the truth, and the ____ shall set you free.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God help me love Jesus who is the truth.

Memorize John 8:32 (NIV): *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is the TRUTH.

Day 332

The Crowd Follows Evil Advice

READ
Mark
15:6-14

Pilate realized Jesus was innocent. He had done nothing wrong. Pilate usually freed one prisoner chosen by the people during the Passover Festival. There was a very bad prisoner named Barabbas who had killed others during a riot. He was one of the many Jews who led other Jews to fight against the Romans who ruled them. Some of these men (rebels) were thought to be the Christ who would deliver the Jews from Roman rule. The Jews misunderstood God's promise of the Messiah, the Christ. They did not understand that the Christ was to come and save the whole world from sin and bring those who accept him into a relationship with God. Pilate was sure they'd have this good man Jesus released rather than Barabbas, the murderer. But, Oh, what a shock he received. The chief priests told the crowd to ask for Barabbas' freedom. They were so envious and jealous, they'd rather have Jesus, a righteous man, crucified. What terrible things envy and jealousy lead people to do. The crowd listened to the bad advice of the chief priests. Be careful of joining the crowd to do evil. Think before you act if you happen to be part of a crowd.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did the crowd do the right thing? 2. The crowd did the wrong thing because they listened to bad advice. How do you tell a good advice from a bad one?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, let the Word of God make me wise so I can tell good advice from bad ones, in Jesus name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

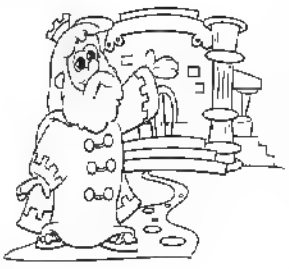
Don't join the crowd to do evil.

Day 333

READ
Mark 15:15

Pilate Refuses To Do What Is Right

What did Pilate do? Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and yet gave Jesus up to be crucified because he wanted to please the crowd. His position as the governor of Judea was more important to him than knowing and accepting truth. Either Jesus was king or Caesar was king, the chief priests and Jewish leaders argued with Pilate. Pilate had to choose one side. If he let Jesus go free, it meant he was against Caesar, the emperor of Rome, who was his boss. Their trick worked and it proved that the Jewish leaders themselves did not really love God. They loved their positions more than God and his laws. This is idolatry. Do you see how envy and jealousy can lead people into idolatry (Exodus 20:3 & 16). Is there something in your life that you love more than knowing the Truth, who is Jesus, and living according to what he teaches? What are you so desperate to have or to be, you will rather bow to that thing as a god (i.e. by doing whatever it takes) instead of obeying Jesus, the Truth? Pilate's own ambition to remain a governor no matter what it takes, and with a little help from the crowd, drove him to allow Jesus, an innocent man, to be crucified.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Pilate give Jesus up to be crucified?
2. List the things you want so much they are likely to draw you away from loving the truth Jesus teaches?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, give me power to do what pleases you at all times, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Please God rather than men.

Day 334

READ
Matthew 27:3-5

Judas Dies

Sin or wrongdoing may look attractive, but it leads to death for those who never say sorry to God. And this is what happened to Judas. Judas saw the horror and wickedness of his act. The money he wanted so much did not look attractive anymore. He now hated it and took it back to the chief priests. He told them he had done wrong by betraying Jesus. Judas went to the chief priests and elders. Who do you think he should have gone to say sorry to? Of course, God! Only God has the power to forgive sins. The chief priests and elders couldn't care less. You'd think they'd help Judas after he'd helped them arrest Jesus, but they just mocked him. Sometimes that's what people who lead others into sin do. Satan and his demons who whisper evil things into minds laugh and mock when the people fall flat into the sin and feel terrible about themselves. Satan made Judas feel that his sin could not be forgiven. That's another lie the devil tells people. Judas believed this lie and thought it is was better for him to die. Judas lost all hope. Many people today have been deceived into thinking there is no hope in the situation they find themselves so they are ready to kill themselves like Judas. But that's not true. If you ask Jesus to forgive you, he is ready to forgive all your sins. If you ask Jesus to deliver you from any addiction you may have he is more than able to do it. Don't believe the devil and the people he uses to destroy your hope. Hope is the comfort and peace we enjoy in times of trouble because we have placed our trust in Jesus. Jesus saves us from sin and how sin makes us feel worthless, that we amount to nothing. People who reject Jesus lose all hope like Judas. Come to Jesus.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that there is not a single hopeless case Jesus cannot save from. Hallelujah. Amen.

Today's Wise Words:
Jesus gives hope but the devil destroys our hope.

Day 335

READ
Mark 15:16-20

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Today you read what the soldiers did to Jesus. Pilate had released Barabbas, but Jesus was to be flogged and crucified. At the high priest's house they had spat on his face and struck him with their fists. Jesus' face was swollen and bloody by then. The soldiers took over. The soldiers were usually given charge of criminals that were to be crucified. See the pain they inflicted on Jesus who had done no wrong. They put a purple robe on him and a staff in his hand to make fun of Jesus for claiming he was the king of the Jews. They twisted a crown of thorns and pressed it down his head till blood oozed out. They made fun of him, bowing, and spitting on him. Then they grabbed the staff from his hand, hitting him on the head till his face and head were so crushed. You couldn't recognize him if you knew him. Soldiers and people in certain types of jobs have been known to behave unruly sometimes: abuse people, cheat, collect bribes, bully, etc. Should you find yourself in any of such jobs be careful to stand out, behaving well for the glory of Christ Jesus. Jesus suffered all this so all who come to him would be saved. Remember how much he suffered for you and praise him.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Certain bad behaviors are typical of people in certain jobs. Can you list some of these jobs and the bad behaviors typical of them? 2. Should the soldiers have done what was typical of soldiers? 3. Why did Jesus have to suffer?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you appreciate Jesus for suffering for you.

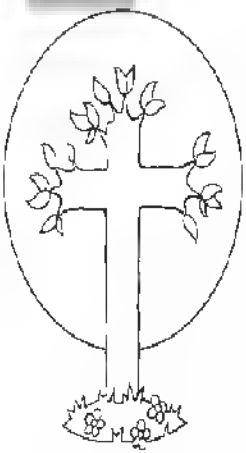
Today's Wise Words: Jesus suffered all that for me.

Day 336

READ
Mark
15:21-32

The Way To The Cross

Jesus was now on his way to be crucified. He was too weak to carry his own cross all the way. The soldiers forced a man called Simon to carry Jesus' cross. When they got to Golgotha, where he was to be crucified, they took off all his clothes. Then they nailed him to the cross. The soldiers divided his clothes among themselves. Two robbers were crucified along with Christ, one on his right, the other on his left. Those who passed by did not take pity on him. They insulted him and challenged him to come down from the cross if he were really the Christ. But the people insulting him did not understand that Jesus was not on the cross to save himself, but for people of every age. Jesus didn't have to die because he never sinned. And Jesus wouldn't walk away from the cross because he loves us so much. He was willing to pay for our sins. Jesus obeyed God rather than men. Praise the name of Jesus. Jesus teaches us in today's story not to let the mean stuff others say stop us from doing what God commands us to do because he loves us.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Did Jesus pay attention to the insults heaped on him? Why?
2. Should the annoying things others say stop you from doing what pleases God? Why?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me do what is right even when others want to stop me by what they say, in Jesus name.

Today's Wise Words

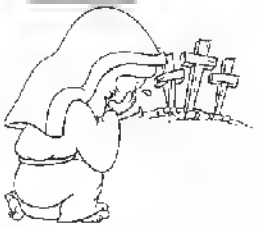
Jesus did not mind the insults as he hung on the cross.

Day 337

READ
Luke 23:32-34

Jesus Forgives

What did Jesus do when he was being crucified? He asked God to forgive those crucifying him because they had no idea what they were doing. The four Roman soldiers had no clue that they were crucifying the Son of God. To them it was just their job—fastening criminals to wooden crosses, lifting the crosses up, filing them into the ground, gambling for their clothes, and sitting down to watch till the criminals died. They did not pay particular attention to Jesus: the love in his eyes for sinners and the truth he spoke. Some of us behave like these Roman soldiers. We do not pay attention to what we hear about Jesus. In fact, we make jokes of anything we hear about Jesus and our sins just like the soldiers. But Jesus forgave their ignorance and has forgiven you too. And now that you are reading the truth about Jesus, it is time you follow him as your Savior and Master. Are you a follower of Jesus? If you are, you need to seek to understand what God is doing in your life and work with him. If you do, you will be able to take part in great things God is doing in his church here on earth so his blessings won't pass you by. Christians who pay attention to what is happening in their world pray a lot just as Daniel did and God used him and even revealed future events to him (read the book of Daniel). Jesus gave us all an example of true love. Jesus even loved his enemies who were nailing him to the cross and prayed for them.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Is it important to pay attention to how you do your daily chores?
2. What do you learn from Jesus' words to those crucifying him?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

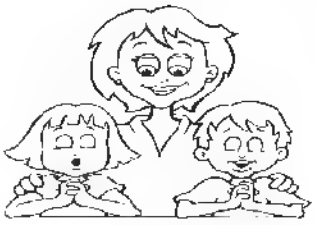
Today's Wise Words: Pay attention to what God is doing in his church and in the world.

Day 338

READ
Luke 23:39-43

One Criminal Had A Change of Mind

Today's story teaches us that Jesus can save even those who are at death's door. You read in the gospel of Mark that the criminals who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. But, one of them soon had a change of mind. This criminal knew he deserved to die because he had done very bad things. He realized that Jesus was the Christ and a king. Jesus had done no wrong. So, he turned to Jesus and asked him to remember him in his kingdom. Jesus was ready to accept this sinner into his kingdom. Jesus promised him he would be in paradise that very day. Paradise is heaven. So do not give up praying for family and friends you want Jesus to save, even if some of them are so close to death because they are so old or very sick, or because of a bad lifestyle (drunks, addicts, criminals). Pray that criminals in prison will all come to know Jesus just like the criminal in today's story. And remember to pray for Christians who have taken it upon themselves to preach the gospel in prisons all over the world.



Dig Out The Answers

1. Did Jesus forgive the criminal who put his faith in him?
2. Will Jesus forgive criminals who are in prison right now if they come to him? 3. Can Jesus save any of your relatives or friends who are close to death or are in prison?
4. What did the criminal do to receive forgiveness? What can you do for those relatives and friends you want saved?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray for criminals to come and know Jesus.

Today's Wise Words

It's never too late to give your life to Christ.

Day 339

Jesus Provides For His Mother

READ
John
19:25-27

Jesus teaches us in today's passage to take care of our parents when we grow up and if you are already an adult then you should be taking good care of your parents or guardians. Jesus' mother, his aunt, his disciple John, and Mary Magdalene, stood near the cross where Jesus was crucified. Jesus' mother did not desert him like the rest of the disciples. Though Jesus was himself suffering on the cross, he did not forget his mother. He had to find a good person to take care of his mother after his death. John, one of his disciples was one of his best friends. He too did not desert Jesus completely, but stood near the cross. Jesus asked John to take care of his mother after his death. John was such a faithful friend. He took Jesus' mother to his own home and took care of her. Jesus' father was probably dead by then. It pleases God when grown children take care of their aging parents. And also, we should be faithful friends like John, such that our friends can trust us to help members of their families when they are in need. Even before you become a grown-up, there are things you can do now to help take care of your parents. List a few that you do or will soon start doing to help your parents.

Dig Out The Answers

1. How did Jesus show his love to his mother even as he hung on the cross?
2. What does God expect grown children to do for their parents?
3. What can you do now to help take care of your parents?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me take care of my parents. Let me help out with chores at home so my parents can take a break, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus took care of his mother.

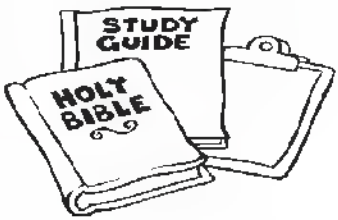
Day 340

READ

Matthew 27:45-49

Darkness At Jesus' Death

Jesus was about to die but his was no ordinary death. Jesus was crucified at about nine in the morning. At noon, darkness came over the whole land for three hours. It cleared at three in the afternoon. When the darkness cleared, Jesus cried out to God, using words found in Psalm 22, verse 1 (GW): "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away from helping me, so far away from the words of my groaning?" It is good to speak the Word of God when you pray. God says he will answer our prayers if we pray according to his will (1John 5:14). God's will is found in the Bible; therefore knowing the Bible and using it to guide your prayers helps you to pray according to God's will and you will receive answers. Jesus did just that. That's why it is important to memorize Bible verses. Jesus cried out to God in a loud voice because at that moment he was paying for our sins and God heard him.



Dig Out The Answers

1. What came over the whole land at noon? How long did the darkness last? 2. What did Jesus do when the darkness disappeared? What does that teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, teach me to pray using the words in the Bible just as Jesus did. Amen.

Memorize 1John 5:14 (NIV): "*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*"

Today's Wise Words

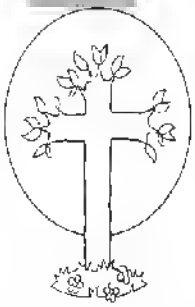
Jesus prayed using Bible verses.

Day 341

READ
Matthew 27:50-53

Jesus' Last Cry

Jesus cried out with a loud voice before he died. Jesus' loud cry was a cry of victory over sin, the world, and the devil. Hallelujah! And what followed? The curtain in the temple was torn in two. In the Jewish temple, there was a curtain that separated a place called the Holy from the Most Holy Place. Only the high priest was allowed into the Most Holy Place, and he did that only once a year when he offered a sacrifice for the sins of all Jews. Apart from the high priest anyone who dared to enter the Most Holy place died right then and there. What was so important about the curtain being torn in two? This is what it means—from that time on all who want to can come to God through Christ. There's no need for priests, or pastors, or some special people to go to God on your behalf anymore to offer sacrifices or pray for you so God can forgive your sins. When Jesus died, there was also an earthquake. Tombs broke open and many holy men were raised back to life. Did you hear of such things ever happening at the passing away of an important person? All this shows that Jesus is really the Son of God, who came and died for our sins, and he has really set us free.



Dig Out The Answers

1. List the things that happened when Jesus died?
2. Do you need a priest to pray to God for your sins to be forgiven? Why?
3. You go into the presence of God through _____.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, I thank you that I can now come straight to you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: I don't need priests to ask God for forgiveness on my behalf. I go to God through Jesus.

Day 342

READ
John
19:28-30

It Is Finished

Yesterday, we read that Jesus cried with a loud voice and then died. In today's passage, we read what Jesus actually said when he cried out loud, "It is finished." Jesus spoke for the last time. What did Jesus mean? Jesus had finished all the work God sent him to do on earth. God sent Jesus to come and die to save us from sin, the wicked world system (the dishonest ways in which things are done in the world: (Galatians 1:4), and the power of the devil (1John 3:8). Jesus finished paying for our sins by dying on the cross. Jesus conquered the devil so that we'd be free to obey God. Now, all who come to Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins and have power to obey God, enjoy God's blessings here on earth, and finally go to heaven when they die. Whenever you face temptations, or a challenge, or a problem, you can shout with faith, "It is finished," reminding yourself that Jesus overcame sin, the world, the devil, and every challenge for you on the cross. Praise the name of Jesus!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do to pay for your sin?
2. What did Jesus do to conquer the devil so he'd not have power over you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Father, thank you that Jesus died to pay for my sins, and conquered the devil so I can live for you alone. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus died to pay for my sin, conquered the devil, and gave me power to live for him.

Day 343

READ
Matthew 27:54

The Centurion Believes

The centurion was responsible for supervising the soldiers to make sure the crucifixion of the criminals went well without any problems. The centurion was a keen observer unlike the soldiers or guards. He took notice of the way Jesus handled himself while hanging on the cross. Jesus was not cussing. He heard Jesus forgive those who railed insults on him. Probably, he heard Jesus assure one of the criminals that he would be with him in paradise that day when he acknowledged Jesus to be a righteous man. He heard Jesus ask John to take care of his mother. The centurion had never seen any crucified man behave with such respect, calmness, confidence, and dignity. He heard Jesus' last cry before dying and he became totally convinced that Jesus was wrongly accused. He had committed no crime. Then the darkness and earthquake frightened him and his soldiers. They knew then they had crucified an innocent man. They acknowledged that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, a righteous man. Remember Jesus taught his disciples that the Holy Spirit would convince sinners that he is a righteous man (John 16:10; Day 308). God opened the eyes of even those who nailed Jesus to the cross to see that Jesus was His Son. God's Spirit is still opening the eyes of those who insult Jesus, persecute, and kill his followers to understand and believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Praise God for doing this right now in the lives of many.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What made the centurion and soldiers say that Jesus was the Son of God? 2. Why do you think Jesus is the Son of God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God you know Jesus is the Son of God.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus, the Son of God, is able to save the worst of sinners.

Day 344

READ
John 19:19-22

Jesus—King of The Jews

Today's passage teaches us that Jesus was still king when he died on the cross. When a criminal was crucified in those days, they usually wrote his crime and fastened it to the cross. 'Thief' or 'Murderer' was probably fastened to the crosses of the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus. And that would be true because one of them admitted to Jesus he was a bad man and needed salvation. But see what sign Pilate had fastened to Jesus' cross "King of the Jews." Do you think anybody should be killed because of that? Jesus did not commit any crime so they couldn't write anything but that. This was written in three languages commonly spoken in Israel in those days—Aramaic, Latin and Greek. This way most people could read the sign. Remember that this took place during the Passover Festival when many Jews had come to Jerusalem from all parts of Israel and other countries. Jesus wants all the people in the world to know that he is the King, the Christ, the Son of God, who alone saves people from sin. Jesus wants people to read the Good News in their own languages so they'll understand and believe. Pray for all those missionaries who are working hard to write the Bible in different languages around the globe.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why should the Bible be written in languages spoken in every part of the world? 2. What can you do for those translating the Bible into different languages?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, I thank you for missionaries busy learning different languages so they can write the Bible in those languages. Let those who read the Bible in these languages come to Jesus to save them. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

The Bible in all languages for all people.

Day 345

READ
John
19:31-37

Jesus Actually Died

This passage teaches us that Jesus actually died, and you must believe this always. If anyone should tell you that Jesus didn't die, tell the person to read this passage in the Bible. As said before, the devil wants people to believe that Jesus didn't die. If Jesus didn't die for our sins then none of us can go to God. But this is not true. Jesus died for our sins so we can be God's children. The Jewish leaders did not want crucified bodies hanging out on a Sabbath. The Sabbath was a day of rest so people would spend their time worshipping God. The Jews were not allowed to do regular jobs or chores on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8). They were supposed to go the temple and worship God. Dead bodies were not supposed to hang on crosses on the Sabbath either. It took a long time for a crucified person to die and the Jews didn't want them hanging out there on the Sabbath. They asked Pilate to let the soldiers break their legs so they would die sooner and be buried before the Sabbath. The soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals but when they came to Jesus, he was already dead, so they didn't break any of Jesus' bones. All this happened to Jesus as was written in the Old Testament (Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12 and Psalm 34:20). Be sure of this, every word of God will come true. Be happy that all God has planned for your life will come to pass just as everything written about Jesus in the Old Testament came true.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Did everything that was written about Christ Jesus in the Old Testament come true? 2. Does it mean everything God has planned for your life will come true if you walk with Jesus?

In Your Own Words: Write lessons learned in your journal.

My Prayer: Dear God, I thank you that Jesus actually died on the cross for me just as the prophets said. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: God's plan for my life will come to pass.

Day 346

READ
John 19:38-42

Jesus Is Buried

God makes us bold to do his will. Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple of Jesus because he feared the Jews. He was a rich man and one of the Jewish leaders. Nicodemus was the man who came to Jesus at night. Jesus taught him what it meant to be *born again* (Day 183 & 184). Remember he was also a ruler of the Jews and a secret disciple. Both Joseph and Nicodemus were very important people and yet they were disciples of Jesus. They were all waiting for the kingdom of God. Are you looking forward to see God's kingdom established on earth (Matthew 6:10)? If you are, you will recognize Jesus as the Messiah, who alone saves us from sin so we can serve God, as Joseph, Nicodemus, Simeon, and Anna all did (Luke 2). Though Joseph and Nicodemus were secret disciples for a while, their love for Jesus finally drove away their fear of the Jews. While Joseph went to ask Pilate's permission to get Jesus' body off the cross for burial, Nicodemus was busy preparing a mixture to embalm Jesus. When they had embalmed Jesus, they laid him in a new tomb nearby. God is able to make you bold to stand for Jesus just as he did for Joseph and Nicodemus. Remember, the love of Jesus in your heart will always drive out fear and shame, so you can live and serve him. The love of Jesus is more powerful than shame or fear.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What drove the fear of the Jews out of Joseph and Nicodemus? 2. What would you do to show your love for Jesus? 3. A good and righteous person is someone who ..... (clue: Luke 23:50-51)

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray not to be ashamed to follow Jesus every day.

Today's Wise Words

The love of Jesus is greater than fear and shame.

Day 347

READ
Matthew 27:62-66

Guards At The Tomb

God's Word is so powerful that those who hear never forget, especially Jesus' enemies. The chief priests suddenly remembered that Jesus had said he would rise again on the third day. They had to be sure that wouldn't happen. They asked Pilate to seal the tomb as well as send a large number of soldiers to guard it, afraid the disciples of Jesus might come and steal the body and say that he had risen. The chief priests were afraid of the words of Jesus. They'd seen or heard about Lazarus and others who were raised from the dead by Jesus. Though they hated him, they were afraid of his words. His word is truth and it always comes true. Do you know that the Word of God does not leave the heart of any person who hears it?

The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God people hear to convince them to come to Jesus. That's why it's so important to tell your friends about Jesus. The words you speak about Jesus will remain in their hearts whether they come to Jesus or not. Now that the tomb is sealed and being guarded, would Jesus still rise from the dead?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why is the Word of God so powerful?
2. What does the Holy Spirit do with the Word of God people hear? 3. Why were the chief priests afraid of Jesus' words?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, your Word is very powerful. Thank you that the Holy Spirit uses it to convince people to come to Jesus. Also, use it to change me so I can bring glory to you, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The Word of God is so powerful. It never leaves the hearts of those who hear.

Day 348

READ
Matthew 28:2-4

He Has Risen

God is more powerful than any person or thing in the world. You must know this. What happened on the third day at the tomb of Jesus? The third day would be Sunday. Remember that the tomb was sealed along with a large number of soldiers guarding it. There was a violent earthquake as an angel of the Lord came down from heaven. What did he do? He rolled away the stone from the tomb and sat on it. That easy! It's always this easy for God to help us when we bring our problems to him. Don't sweat it. The guards who were supposed to guard the tomb were so afraid, they became like dead men. Jesus has risen and one day you will also rise again from the dead if you die before Jesus comes back. Nobody promised to rise from the dead after three days and did. Only Jesus: *"For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights* (Matthew 12:50). Why would you trust any other person with your life or challenges (Jeremiah 17:5; Psalm 118:9)?

Dig Out The Answers

1. Was anything able to stop Jesus from rising from the dead and out of the tomb? 2. What does this teach you about the power of God?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank you God for showing your power by raising Jesus from the dead. Help me trust you with all my problems. Nothing is too difficult for you. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

God raised Jesus from the dead—that easy!

Day 349

READ
Matthew 28:11-15

The Guards' Report

Today's story teaches us never to accept money or gift to lie for someone. The frightened guards fled the tomb as soon as their legs could carry them. They told the chief priests all about the earthquake and the angel. The chief priests didn't want others to know the truth that Jesus actually rose from the dead miraculously. See what they did. They gave the guards money so they would spread the lie that Jesus' disciples stole his body while they slept. This lie spread very quickly among the Jews at the time and people still believe this lie today. The devil is the father of lies (John 8:44), and he still whispers into the ears of people this lie, that the disciples of Jesus stole his body away. But you know that Jesus rose again from the dead. The guards themselves saw everything. Nobody has ever laid eyes on Jesus body or his bones. *"But now Christ has come back from the dead. He is the very first person of those who have died to come back to life. Since a man brought death, a man also brought life back from death* (1 Corinthians 15:20-21, GW). Jesus is in heaven right now and praying for you. Jesus also lives in your heart by His Holy Spirit.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the chief priests give the guards money to spread a lie? 2. Did Jesus actually rise from the dead? How do you know?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me never to accept money or gift to tell a lie for someone, in Jesus name, Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Never accept a gift or money to tell a lie for someone.

Day 350

READ
Mark 16:1-4

The Stone Rolled Away

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome decided to go visit the tomb. They were going to anoint Jesus' body with spices. This was what was done to dead bodies during the time of Jesus. They were still sad about Jesus' death. But then, they remembered that there was a big stone at the entrance of the tomb. They were not strong enough to roll the stone away. But there was another problem that they didn't know about. And that was—there were lots of soldiers guarding the tomb. But see what God did. When they got to the tomb, the problem they knew about—*rolling of the stone* away had been solved. We know who did it from the story we read two days ago—the angel from heaven. The problem they didn't know about—*the soldiers guarding the tomb*, had all run away from fear of the angel. The soldiers for sure would have driven the women away from the tomb. God will not only solve the problems you know about, but even the ones you don't know about. God does this for all who follow Jesus with all their hearts. There are many problems around you that you can't see or know about. But everyday God delivers you from them. Today, thank God for all the problems he delivers you and your family from because you trust in Jesus.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Write down the problem the women discussed on their way to Jesus' tomb? 2. Write down the problem that the women didn't know about? 3. How did God solve problem one and two? What does this teach you?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you for solving problems I know about and those I don't, in Jesus name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words:
God solves problems I know about and the ones I don't.

Day 351

READ
Luke 24:1-3

Jesus Lives

Today's story tells us other women went along to the tomb with Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had already wrapped Jesus' body in spices. Yet still, these women brought more spices to the tomb the first day of the week because they loved Jesus and had to be sure that he was given a perfect burial. What does this teach you? Don't let what others do to show their love for Christ stop you from doing the same for him. For example you may hear of somebody giving up his bike or allowance for a missionary in a far country. This shouldn't stop you from giving up your bike or allowance for another missionary elsewhere. You don't have to worry about doing the same thing if you want to show your love for Jesus. Yesterday, the women found out the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. Today's story tells us that they entered, but they did not find Jesus' body. They didn't know that Jesus had risen just as he said.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Can you think of the number one reason the women took along spices to Jesus' tomb?
2. Should the way others show their love for Jesus stop you from doing the same?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray that God will help you show your love for Jesus, even if what you plan to do has been done already by someone else.

Today's Wise Words: Be ready to give to Jesus even though others may have done so.

Day 352

READ

Luke 24:4-8

Jesus Keeps His Word

The women stood there wondering what had happened to Jesus' body. While they stood wondering, two men suddenly appeared beside them. They were angels. Their clothes gleamed like lightning. The women were very afraid but the angels told them the good news—"Jesus has risen from the dead." Then the women remembered that Jesus had said he would rise again. Jesus keeps his word. Jesus has promised all who believe in him that they would live together with him in heaven. Believe him, for Jesus is able to do all that he promises. Maybe you can write some of the things Jesus promises in the Bible down in your notebook. Read Matthew chapter 6, verse 33, and Matthew chapter 28, verse 20, and write down the promises you find there. Whenever you read them, remember that Jesus will keep every one of them.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the women remember after the angel spoke to them?
2. Write down two things that Jesus promises to all who follow him.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus keeps his promises. Help me trust him everyday. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus promised to rise from the dead and he did.

Day 353

READ
John
20:1-9

Peter and John Believe

When the women saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, Mary Magdalene hurried away to go and tell the disciples. Meanwhile, the other women stood wondering when two angels appeared to them as we read in yesterday's story. Mary Magdalene told Peter and John that Jesus' body had been taken away. Peter and John decided to go and check it out. They came to the tomb and found the strips of linen Jesus was wrapped in lying there, untouched and undisturbed, as though the body just slipped out of them. Peter and John were not afraid to go into the tomb. This teaches us not to scare ourselves with monsters and foolish fancies as we follow Christ Jesus. There's nothing to fear when Christ Jesus is your Lord and Savior. John and Peter both believed that Jesus had truly risen from the dead. Had they seen Jesus yet? No. They realized that Jesus' rising from the dead was a miracle. Jesus didn't have to unwrap himself from the strips. He just slipped out of them. Likewise when Christ comes again you will also slip out of your natural body and be given a glorious body. Hallelujah!

Dig Out The Answers

1. Were John and Peter afraid to enter the tomb? Why?
2. Should you allow your imaginations about the graveyard to scare you? Remember Jesus had been to the grave and he walked out of that place without any harm, so you need not be afraid of graveyards, or monsters in the dark. Jesus is more powerful.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Lord God, some people think the grave is the scariest thing in the whole wide world, but I know Jesus conquered it, so thank you for giving me courage when I am afraid, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus conquered the grave. I don't have to fear it.

Day 354

READ
John 20:10-18

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene teaches us in today's story to seek Jesus every day without getting tired of it. If you get tired or bored seeking after Jesus every day, it means that you are going about it the wrong way. King David says in Psalm 122 that he was always happy to be in the House of the Lord, that is, he loved to live in God's presence. We seek Jesus or live in God's presence by reading the Bible daily, obeying it, sharing it, praying it, and doing God's work together with other Christians. Mary Magdalene stayed behind even when Peter and John left the tomb for their homes. She wanted to find out what had happened to Jesus. She stooped to look into the tomb and saw two angels. Was she happy? No. She was not looking for angels. She was looking for Jesus. She asked the angels where she could find Jesus' dead body. Remember, we are not to seek angels or their help but Jesus alone. The next moment Jesus was standing behind her. She couldn't recognize him until Jesus called out her name. Oh what joy! She finally saw Jesus, the risen Jesus! Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus because she searched for the whereabouts of Jesus without getting tired. Jesus rewards all who seek him with all their hearts. Those who seek Jesus always get to know more of his love, his power, miracles, joy, and many other blessings.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Was Mary Magdalene happy when she saw angels in the tomb? Why?
2. You are to seek only _____, because .....

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me seek Jesus only and nothing else, because he is my Savior and Lord.

Today's Wise Words: Do not seek angels but Jesus. Jesus rewards those who seek him with all their heart.

Day 355

READ
Proverbs 8:17

Seek Jesus Early

This proverb is a promise from God to everyone in this world. It says, *"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me" (KJV)*. God kept this promise to Mary Magdalene. Those who seek God eagerly find him. And people who are eager start early. Mary Magdalene sought for Jesus early and with all her heart so she was the first to see him. Just as Mary was the first to see the risen Jesus, God is also willing to do something special in your life if you keep seeking him early and every day. Many people who came to Christ late in life wished they had known Jesus early, that is, while they were young. Are you young, then thank God you have found him early and seek after him every day. God keeps his promises. Be sure to seek Jesus, reading the Bible, obeying, praying and doing God's work. Even as you do these things, expect God to bless you in a special way. Do you know that grown-ups who became Christians while they were children avoided so many teenage problems as well as other grown-up ones? How? Because they studied God's Word and obeyed it, they became wise and made wise choices. Young people who seek Jesus early are wise.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does God promise those who seek him early with all their hearts?
2. What was Mary Magdalene's reward for seeking Jesus early and eagerly?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, help me seek Jesus every day, so I can be wise and receive a reward from you. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Seek Jesus early.

Day 356

READ
Luke 24:13-16

On the Road to Emmaus

After Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, he appeared later that same day to two other disciples on their way to Emmaus. What were the two disciples discussing as they went along? They were talking about Jesus: how he taught with authority, how he healed the sick, performed miracles, that the chief priests and Jews had him crucified, and now rumors that he had risen from the dead. As they talked, Jesus joined them but they didn't recognize him. You, too, are to talk about Jesus whenever you meet another Christian friend. What happens when you do so? Jesus joins your conversation even though you don't see him. Isn't this wonderful! The things we learn about Jesus from God's Word, or from church, should excite us so much that we always want to talk them over with friends. When you meet another young person who is a Christian, try discussing what you know about Jesus. Jesus is always present when we talk about him with our Christian friends.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What were the two disciples talking about on their way to Emmaus?
2. What should you talk about when you meet another Christian friend?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, teach me to discuss your Word with other Christians whenever we meet, because Jesus joins us when we do so. Amen

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is always present when we talk about him with our friends.

Day 357

Jesus Joins the Two Disciples

READ
Luke 24:17-27

When Jesus is present, he makes us understand his Word better. As we read yesterday, Jesus joined the two disciples on their way to Emmaus though they didn't recognize him. Jesus joined the conversation by asking a question, as we read in today's passage. They were sad at first, but managed to tell him all that had happened to the one they had thought was the Christ. How funny—talking to Jesus about himself!

What did Jesus do after hearing all that they had to say about him? He explained to them that Jesus had to suffer so he could enter into his glory. Jesus also explained all that had been written concerning him by Moses and the prophets of old. This is what happens when we talk about Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes in and helps us understand God's Word better. Do you want to understand God's Word better? Then keep talking about it with your Christian friends.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did Jesus do for the two disciples?
2. What does the Holy Spirit do when you discuss God's Word with others?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that your Holy Spirit helps me understand your Word whenever I discuss it with my Christian friends. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: The Holy Spirit helps me understand God's Word better whenever I discuss with Christian friends.

Day 358

The Two Disciples Host Jesus

READ
Luke 24:28-29

The two disciples enjoyed listening to Jesus explain the Word of God to them so much they invited him to stay the night with them. This action by the two disciples teaches us also to be so thrilled listening to God's Word that we want to hear it over and over again. They were more than happy to have Jesus stay the night. Are you happy when Christian families stay a few nights in your home? Jesus encourages us to want to have Christian workers stay a few days in our homes when they have to. What can you do to show Jesus' love to Christian workers who may stay the night in your home? Preachers, pastors, gospel singers, missionaries, children or youth choirs are all Christian workers who travel around and may need a place to spend a few nights. Would you help your family get their room ready? Could you help set the table for supper? Would you empty their laundry baskets? Would you chat with them or play with their children? God blesses us when we show such kindness to Christian workers and such kind actions help us understand God's Word better and make us wise.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to stay the night?
2. Would you encourage your family to host Christian workers in your home if it were announced in your church one Sunday?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, help me encourage my family to host Christian workers in our home, and teach me to help out cheerfully, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Wise Words: Showing hospitality to other Christians help us understand God's Word better.

Day 359

The Two Disciples Recognize Jesus

READ
Luke 24:30-35

The two disciples were good hosts. Once Jesus was in their home they served him supper. When it was time to eat, Jesus took the bread and broke it as he usually did. Then and there the disciples recognized who he was—Jesus! Would you recognize Jesus if he came to your home? Nobody could fool the two disciples about Jesus because they had walked with him, they had eaten with him and watched how he gave thanks at every meal. They had listened to him, been taught by him, and obeyed him. So they could recognize him. Jesus never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. When you walk with Jesus you'll also know him. You know Jesus by reading the Word of God, obeying it, and praying it. If Jesus came to you, he would speak the way the Bible speaks about him. Jesus would show the same kindness, compassion, gentleness, power, and all that you read about him. When you know Jesus this way, nobody can fool you by pretending to be Jesus. The disciples were overjoyed, even though Jesus disappeared. They couldn't hold the news any longer. They had to tell the rest of the disciples. So off to Jerusalem they went with the good news.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did the two disciples recognize Jesus?
2. How would you also recognize Jesus if he came to your home?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Dear God, let your Holy Spirit teach me more about Jesus through your Word, so I'll know him and see him in all that I do, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Memorize Hebrews 13:8 (NIV): *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

Today's Wise Words
I know Jesus when I walk with him.

Day 360

READ
Luke 24:36-43

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

We are continuing the story from yesterday. The two disciples told the eleven about the good news—the Lord has risen! While they were still talking Jesus appeared in the room where they were. Jesus rose again from the dead with a special body. His body now had a special ability to appear and disappear. Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you." Whenever Jesus is with us, he brings us peace. Whenever you are frightened, remember that Jesus is with you and you'll have peace. The disciples were all frightened because they thought he was a spirit. Jesus proved to them that he was not a spirit. He still had a body with bones and flesh even though it was a much more special body now. He showed them the nail marks in his hands and feet. He also ate the broiled fish he asked for to prove that he wasn't a spirit. Jesus really did rise from the dead with a real but glorified body and when he comes back all Christians in the grave will rise up with real but glorified bodies.

Dig Out The Answers

1. What does Jesus bring us when we are frightened? 2. What did Jesus do to prove that he wasn't a spirit?
3. What could Jesus' special body do?

In Your Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, I thank you that Jesus actually rose from the dead with a real body made of flesh and bones. Amen.

Today's Wise Words

Jesus' resurrected body was flesh and bones.

Day 361

Jesus Explains His Death and Resurrection

READ
Luke 24:44-49

Jesus was still with his disciples as we read yesterday. He realized that his disciples did not understand all that had happened to him, so he explained the Scripture to them. Scripture is another word for the Bible. Jesus pointed out to them that what Moses, the Prophets, and the other Scriptures spoke about him must all be fulfilled. Do you know that so many passages in the Old Testament talk about Jesus' coming into the world, his sufferings, dying, and rising to save us? Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. You've also heard about prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah, Ezekiel, and Joel among others. Jesus taught the disciples to understand that he suffered, died, and rose again, so all who come to him will receive forgiveness and be saved from their sins. Isn't this wonderful! Now that Jesus is in heaven, the Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us to understand the Word of God (1John 2:27). Jesus also told them to remain in the city until the coming of the Holy Spirit who would give them power to be his witnesses: telling people that only Jesus can save them from sin.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Jesus have to suffer, die, and rise again?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Pray about what you learned.

Memorize Luke 24:46-47 (GW): *"He said to them, "Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven. This would be told to people from all nations, beginning in the city of Jerusalem."*

Today's Wise Words: Jesus himself taught that he suffered, died, and rose again so people will receive forgiveness of their sins in his name when they repent.

Day 362

READ
John 20:24-29

Jesus Appears to Thomas

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them the first time. "Some pretty wild news," Thomas wouldn't believe what he was hearing—Jesus back from the dead! Thomas wanted to be sure it was the same body crucified on the cross that had come back to life. Thomas missed out on the blessing of seeing Jesus the first time because he was not with the other disciples. Do you know that you miss God's blessings if you fail to meet with other Christians for fellowship at church services or Sunday school? Always look forward to meeting with other Christians so you'll be blessed. A week later, Jesus appeared to his disciples when Thomas was there. Jesus told Thomas to stop doubting and believe. Jesus tells all of us the same thing—stop doubting and believe! Have you been asking God to do something for you? Do not doubt, keep praying and God will answer you. Thomas saw Jesus. It was the same Jesus who was hanged on the cross. Thomas believed at once and called Jesus, "My Lord and my God." Those who know Jesus call him *Lord* and *God*. You are very blessed and so are all Christians who did not see Jesus physically, his sufferings, dying, and resurrection—and yet we believe!

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why did Thomas miss the blessing of seeing Jesus' the first time? What does this teach you?
2. Jesus doesn't want you to _____, but believe.

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Ask God to help you believe in Jesus more and more each day.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus is my *Lord* and my *God!*

Day 363

Jesus Appears to His Disciples by the Sea of Galilee

READ
John 21:1-14

The risen Jesus appeared to his disciples on two occasions. He again appeared to them a third time as we read today. The disciples had fished the whole night but caught nothing. Jesus, standing on the shore, told them to cast their net to the right side of the boat and they would find fish. They did not know it was Jesus and yet they obeyed. And when they did, they caught so many fish! Sometimes, Jesus brings us help by using other people. It may be your little sister or an awkward friend. You must be humble and patient to listen to them just as the disciples listened to the stranger at the shore who happened to be Jesus. Do you know Jesus is with you even when you have difficulty completing your homework, chores, or assignments at your workplace, and he is present to help you out? Immediately, John (who calls himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved" because he doesn't want to name himself in his own book) realized it was Jesus. Would you recognize Jesus if he came to your school, your workplace, or neighborhood park or event? John knew it was Jesus because everything Jesus says comes true. As soon as they obeyed, they caught lots of fish. When you allow Jesus to lead you in all you do, you will succeed. Only Jesus has perfect knowledge so he knows exactly what you need to do to be successful at school or at work. It is good to talk to Jesus about your plans. It is good to listen to him as you pray. Jesus puts good ideas into your head to help you in all you do.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Why do you have to talk to Jesus about your plans?
2. What did Jesus do in today's story to show that he has perfect knowledge?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.
My Prayer: Talk to Jesus about your plans.

Today's Wise Words: Jesus has perfect knowledge.

Day 364

Peter Still Dear to Christ Jesus

READ
John 21:15-19

You remember Peter denied he knew Jesus three times when he (Jesus) was being tried at the High Priest's palace. Peter was ashamed and sad, and wept bitterly. Jesus had earlier warned Peter he would deny him, but Peter thought he'd never do such a thing. Jesus had also prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail. And look what happened! Peter's faith did not fail. What did Peter do to show that he'd repented? After weeping bitterly about denying Jesus he came back to the disciples. Peter was with the disciples when Mary Magdalene came with the news that Jesus' body had been stolen. Peter was with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them the first and second times. Those who truly repent of their sins always come back to fellowship with other believers. Judas did not seek fellowship with the other disciples. His was not a true repentance. When we repent of our sins, Jesus asks us one question, "Do you love me?" Jesus asked Peter this same question. Peter told Jesus he loved him, and through the grace of God, he served Jesus the rest of his life. Through Peter and the rest of the apostles, Jesus founded his church on earth. All who love Jesus have grace to serve him like Peter even if they do wrong things sometimes.

Dig Out The Answers

1. Peter denied Jesus. What did he do to show that he repented of his sin? 2. What are those who love Jesus able to do after they repent?

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: God, thank you for the grace you give me to love and serve you whenever I say I am sorry for my sins, in Jesus name.

Today's Wise Words: Love Jesus and fellowship with other believers after confessing your sin.

Day 365

READ
Acts 1:1-11

Jesus Is Taken up into Heaven

Jesus finally leaves earth for heaven as you read today. Jesus finished everything God asked him to. What a wonderful job he did! He preached the Good News of the kingdom, performed miracles, healed the sick, suffered, and died for our sins. Then he rose again from the dead and gave us hope that one day we would also rise again and be with him in heaven, forever. As Jesus was being taken into heaven, two angels stood beside the disciples. They told them Jesus was coming back the same way he ascended into heaven. Now you know where to look as you expect Jesus' second coming—into the heavens. Jesus is not coming back as a baby anymore. He is coming back as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 1:7 & 19:16). Hallelujah! Well done for reading all about the life of Jesus. May the Lord truly bless you!

Dig Out The Answers

1. What did the two men in white tell the disciples as Jesus ascended into heaven? 2. What did Jesus tell the disciples to wait for? 3. Who would give the disciples power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth?
4. Today, Jesus has given all his disciples the Holy Spirit to ....

In Your Own Words: Write down what you learned.

My Prayer: Thank God that Jesus finished all his work on earth. Also thank him for helping you finish your work well too, while you are still at it.

Memorize Acts 1:11b (NIV): "*This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.*"

Today's Wise Words
Jesus is coming back as the King of Kings

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